

INSIDE SOCCER

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SPECIAL FEATURE JOIN US AS WE GO INSIDE... PARRAMATTA POWER

BRING ON BRAZIL!

FARINA USHERS IN NEW ERA OF HOPE

Newly appointed Socceroo coach Frank Farina will have a Brazil tour in November as his first coaching challenge on the road to the Holy Grail of taking Australia to the World Cup in 2002.

On the weekend Farina's appointment - the worst kept secret in Australian sport - was officially announced by Soccer Australia in Sydney at a packed media conference.

Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella took the opportunity to thank all the job applicants, including caretaker coach Raul Blanco, and stated that the days of overseas-born coaches for the Socceroos "are over."

He also praised the quality of coaches we are now able to produce.

Our 18th national team coach began by saying what an absolute honour it was "to take the Socceroos into the new Millennium".

He brushed off the age factor, he is 35 next month, by saying he should be judged on his results not age.

At one point he even joked that it was his good looks that got him the job.

The issue of his coaching staff was batted away, but Scarsella did say that they would not impose on their new appointee anyone he did not want.

Farina also paid tribute to the 1974 Socceroos, and their coach Rale Rasic, who had "set the standard."

Rasic was there at the conference and later spoke proudly of Farina's achievements and attributes.

Farina added that he had an intention to communicate to his players, particularly with those in Europe (who make up the bulk of the squad), to head off the 'club-v-country' problems that have dogged us over the last few years.

"We will sit down with them and their managers to work things out. I don't foresee any major dramas."

"Look we are still going to have a few problems, but if you are prepared to give and take it is important in overcoming these things," he noted.

He added that the players would be given plenty of advance notice for Socceroo games.

Regarding the Olympics Farina believed he should be part of the Olyroo coaching set-up, and would like to be on the bench as an assistant to Raul Blanco at Sydney 2000.

The assembled media warmly applauded Farina when he was introduced as new Socceroo coach - a far cry from the sterile video media conferences of the Venables era.

Perhaps, in 27 months when our World Cup 2002 qualification fate is known, this day will be looked on as an historic one for all the right reasons. We can only hope.

Exclusive one-on-one interview with Frank Farina is on page 2 ...



HONoured, PRIVILEGED AND HUMBLE, SAYS NEW SOCCEROO BOSS FARINA



Inside Soccer had an opportunity to catch up briefly with the new Soccerroo Coach, Frank Farina, on the day his appointment to the job was announced in Sydney on Saturday.

In announcing Soccer Australia's decision, Chairman Basil Scarsella, referred to Farina's appointment as a "new era" for Australian soccer.

While not the first Australian-born coach of a national team (Joe Marston coached the Soccerroos for a few B internationals in the '60s), Farina, 35 next month, is the first Australian-born coach of a World Cup squad and is living testimony

to the development of the game in Australia over the past two or more decades.

Inside Soccer congratulates Soccer Australia for the decision to move to a 'homegrown' hero as national coach, at a time when - at a much broader level - the nation considers its

place in the world ... still tied to the British apron strings or independent and loving it! It's great symbolism for the next century.

We started off by asking Frank how he felt.

FF:

It's a great honour and I know I'm very privileged to be given this honour - but I also feel very humble about it because any one of the people who were considered for the position could have done a good job.

IS:

What does it mean for you person-

ally?

FF:

It's a dream come true for me, and that's another reason why I feel both humble and honoured. Not everyone has the opportunity to see their dreams come true, and I am.

But the next bit of the dream is to actually be successful. It's so critical for Australian football that we qualify [for the World Cup].

IS:

Does the job frighten you?

FF:

It's not a question of fear. It's a challenge, and it's a big job. If you consider that the bottom-line in this job is to get us to the next World Cup, I know from experience what can be done differently or better than previous times to help make that happen.

You need an awful lot of planning, communication and hard work off-the-park - without even beginning to think about what's happening on -the-park which is where you're ultimately judged.

IS:

What are your priorities?

FF:

There are a number of initial priorities, but these revolve around establishing a plan for the period from now up to the World Cup qualifiers, and talking about this with the players - both here and overseas - and other significant people, such as the clubs of some of the overseas players.

IS:

What do you hope to achieve by talking to the clubs of players?

FF: I hope that by being able to talk to the David O'Leary's of this world about what we've got in mind, we might establish a much better 'give and take' situation.

I want to keep the lines of communication open with them, as well as our players.

IS:

Is the club v. country issue the most difficult one to overcome?

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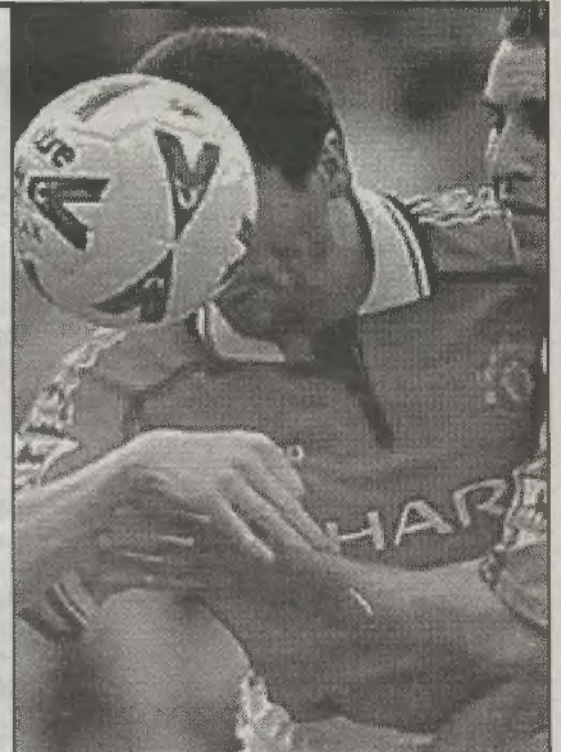
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AND THE SCOTTISH PREMIER



An issue to really get one's head around ...



Coming soon ... the Northern Spirit Fanzine 'Three Points And A Hangover'

FARINA MEAN BUSINESS

Continued from page two...

FF:

Not the most difficult, but it's a threshold one for us at this stage in our development. The positive aspect of it is that we only have it because we're producing players who are good enough to cut it at the top levels overseas and that's a credit to people such as Les Scheinflug, Frank Arok, Ron Smith, Jimmy Shoulder, Raul Blanco, Eddie Thomson and others.

I've been in the middle of the club v. country issue so I know what it's like. In my book, I described myself as feeling like the "meat in the sandwich" pulled between the club who's paying huge sums of money on the one hand, and the country you love.

It is never a question of not wanting to play for Australia, but I also know that sometimes the issue isn't quite as black and white as it may seem to others.

IS:

What about your support team?

FF:

The calibre of the support team is

important both on and off-the park. I'll be discussing this with the Soccer Australia Board over the next few weeks.

IS:

Can you give us any hints?

FF:

(Laughs) No, sorry, no hints.

IS:

What do you have to say to the others who went for the job?

FF:

I think they would feel like I would if the situation was reversed. Firstly, thrilled that the national coaching job has gone to one of us; that it's a positive thing - not for me personally, or whoever might have got the job, but for Australian football.

Again, it's a credit to people like Raul Blanco and Les Scheinflug that we're in this position.

I look forward to working with Ange, Eddie, Mitch and the other NSL coaches and talking with them. I intend that they know what's going on, and that they contribute where possible.

I would like to see getting to the World Cup as a team effort - that is, the



New Socceroo coach Frank Farina... "the important thing is learning from mistakes and picking yourself up and getting on with the job."

JOEYS' BATTLE OF BAHRAIN



By Greg Welsh in Canberra

Australian Under-17s coach Les Scheinflug didn't know whether to be happy or disappointed after his Joeys defeated Bahrain 2-1 in the first leg of their FIFA Under-17 World Championship qualifier at Bruce Stadium on Saturday night.

He'd just watched his charges completely dominate their opponents in a praiseworthy display of attacking football for almost the entire ninety minutes, but had to be content with a narrow victory after a combination of errant finishing and marvelous goalkeeping by Bahrain's Hussin Sanad prevented the Joeys from taking the game by a more comfortable margin.

Scheinflug knows the slender 2-1 lead will be difficult to defend when the sides travel to Bahrain for the second leg of the tie in a few weeks.

"We've got a job ahead of us in Bahrain, but it's good to have a win," Scheinflug said. "I would have liked it by a bigger margin [but] we didn't take our chances."

"I would like to have a two-goal cushion but now we've got a one-goal cushion and we just have to go out there and be ourselves."

While confident his team can take out the series with either a draw or victory in Bahrain, and thus grab the last qualifying position for the World Championships to be held in New Zealand in November, after the deflating Iran experience Scheinflug is unlikely to underestimate his Middle Eastern opponents.

"They've got a few good players. We have to be on our toes. I'm sure they're looking forward to catching us in their heat but let's not say we go out there with our tail between our legs."

"We go out there positive and they have to come at us," Scheinflug added.

Canberra fulfilled the coach's expectations by serving up a chilly 4 degrees for the night match, and as hoped the Bahrain players (many of whom wore gloves) struggled in the unaccustomed climate, with one or two players suffering from cramp late in the match.

After the game, Bahrain coach Mubarek Juhar said he didn't have the preparation he would have liked, and that he would have preferred three weeks to ideally acclimatise to Canberra's cold and altitude.

Juhar was impressed by the Joeys' marking ability and summed up his own tactics by admitting, "we haven't seen the Australian team before and we have taken a position that we have to defend at least to know about them."

That approach became obvious from the match's opening minutes. While Bahrain were content to stack their defence and rely on the counter or set-piece plays, the Joeys attacked from the outset with wing-backs Shane Cansdell-Sherriff and Jade North causing havoc down the flanks.

Cansdell-Sherriff, who now plies his trade at Leeds United, created a number of quality opportunities for the team's other export, Werder Bremen's Joe De Iorio, who threatened to steal the show with a dynamite first twenty minutes.

In only the sixth minute De Iorio had the first real chance of the match when he latched onto Lucas Pantelis' left-foot cross, however the Bahrain defence was quick to clear the ball away.

Two minutes later Cansdell-Sherriff was De Iorio's provider but this time the striker hit the ball just wide of the far post.

But De Iorio was not to be denied for long, and the opening goal of the game duly arrived in the 16th minute.

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big team of 'soccer people' - and I think players and former players can lead the way in this regard, whether we're in coaching, the media, administration or whatever.

We all want the one thing. We all love the game, and it's bigger than all of us.

IS:

What about the Olyroos?

FF:

We all know that the football world doesn't consider the Olympics to be important, but the Olympic Games are very important to Australia and Australians, so it is critical that our Olyroos perform to the highest level. It's football's chance to be up there with other successful Olympians in the eyes of the 'ordinary' public.

I'm looking forward to having an input and working with Raul.

IS:

What do say to people who think you're not much of a coach?

FF:

They're entitled to their opinion. We all make mistakes. I'm the first to admit I have. The important thing is learning from the mistake, and picking yourself up and getting on with the job.

Having said that, I think most of the people who tend to criticise anyone else's coaching ability - be it me or anyone else - are people who have not played or coached at high levels.

You just don't hear a another coach saying "He's hopeless, he can't coach" because it's just not that simple. It tends to be fans who have such strong and set opinions.

IS:

Frank, congratulations from all at Inside Soccer and all the best with your mission!

FF:

Thanks for your support. I look forward to talking to you again in the future.

Ram



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RUSH FOR OLYMPIC TICKETS?

A strong rumour emanating out of UTS Sydney Olympic is that Liverpool legend Ian Rush may play two guest games for the club this season.

Rush (pictured right as player/coach of Wrexham) would be a huge drawcard for the central Sydney club desperately trying to match the marketing prowess of Power in the West and Spirit in the North of Sydney.

If this deal comes off, the club's traditional supporter base may be drowned out by English and Welsh fans keen to see their hero play.

Greg Stock reports that Northern Spirit kept their unbeaten trial game form intact when they scored a hard fought 2-1 win over Super League club Sutherland on Friday night.

At a very cold Seymour Shaw Park, Spirit coach Graham Arnold unveiled new signing David Seal in the first half, fresh from a stint in England with Bristol City and Northampton Town. Seal looked a little out of touch as he and striking partner Clayton Zane missed two early chances before defender Mark Rudan (pic below) bobbed up at the far post to head home the opening goal off a corner.

Rudan's goal came after consistent pressure from the Spirit midfield and in particular Troy Cranney and Tony Faria who continually taunted their opponents with long winding runs deep into Sutherland territory.

In fact it was Faria who impressed as he showed deft footwork and speed as he mounted his challenge for a crack at a first team spot.



In the second half Sutherland captain Mathew Richardson made the score 1-1 when he got on the end of a cross from substitute Jimmy Corbo and put the ball beyond the sprawling Paul Henderson.

Henderson had earlier replaced John Perosh at half-time.

The game ebbed and flowed and provided a willing contest for the small vocal crowd but in the end it was the higher level of skill and fitness of the young Spirit brigade that finally won out.

Former Sutherland junior Adam Griffiths scored the winner with just four minutes remaining after some good leadup work from the man of the match Tony Faria, down the left wing, and Jack Sobczyk.

Although outclassed Sutherland were far from disgraced and gave their coach John Lavin enough



to suggest he has some talent to work with for the 2000 season.

Graham Arnold gave ex Wolves striker Tony Perinich (pictured below) and Olyroo Clayton Zane a good hitout, not replacing Perinich until the 70th minute. Playing a deeper role on the right Perinich was creative and his partnership with Matty Langdon in midfield was impressive.

Also impressive was the Spirit defence ably led by Mark Rudan and Phil Moss who made life difficult for Sutherland's veteran striker Stewart Porter in the first half.

Porter's game was sadly cut short when he was replaced at half-time with the recurrence of a calf muscle injury.

Catching the eye for Sutherland was their 16-year-old striker Kris Karanasis, who gave Rudan and Moss a little to think about at various stages of the second half as he showed some nice touches against his more fancied opponents.



In other news ... Spirit's trial game against The Wollongong Wolves on Saturday September 25 has been confirmed at Seymour Shaw Park. There will be two youth games at 11am and 1pm with first grade to kick-off at 3pm.

And the Sutherland Sharks 1999 Presentation Night will be held on Friday August 25 at the Man Lin Wah Restaurant Miranda, for a 7.30pm kickoff.

Sutherland president Richard May promises the night will be a good opportunity to relax and mingle with past and present players at their premier 'social' event of the year. Bookings can be made via secretary Jim Burgess on 9531 4923.

AM I DREAMING?

By Valentina Ristancova

To represent your country in any sport is a dream come true. Just ask Jacob Burns. The new Parramatta Power signing had his football fantasy come true when he represented Australia in the recent Manchester United tour.

"It was something that I thought was never possible," explained Burns (pictured right with the Devils' Jon Greening).

"To play in front of 70 to 80,000 spectators in your home city was a buzz."

Burns was first called up to join the Australian team as an Olyroo and he has been an almost permanent fixture in the squad for two years.

During this time he has played numerous international games, but he never experienced a crowd of that size ("It is something I will never forget").

Jacob's number one goal is to remain with the Olyroos and hopefully play in the Olympics.

"I'd also like to go overseas from there or if an opportunity comes up before that, I think I will grab it with both hands as opportunities to play abroad don't arrive that often."

"I've always dreamt of playing for my country and trying to see my career go overseas."

'Burnsy' has played soccer since he was seven - Greenacre was his first club.

"I played with them for over five years and I got my five year badge with them," he recalls.

Having played representative level with Bankstown Junior League in the U/11 and U/12s he then moved to UTS Olympic U/13s.

"Following Olympic I joined St George where I played with them in the 14 and 15 year teams before moving to Sydney United to join their under 16 squad."

"Then I made my National Soccer League debut with Sydney United at the age of 17."

Having played with Sydney United's first grade squad for four years, 21 year old Burns has now moved to the newly admitted Ericsson Cup club Parramatta Power.

"I needed something to send me forward a bit," he notes.

"There have been financial problems at Sydney United over the past three years but they only became apparent to the public during



the last season.

"Another reason was that a lot of the good players were moving over there, as well as David Mitchell and Laurie McKinna, who are an excellent management team."

Parramatta Power has recruited some exciting talent from Sydney United, such as Mile Sterjovski (see interview in this issue), Joel Griffiths and Richard Plesa.

"With most of the team coming from Sydney United," said Burns, "we know each other's game and the fact that we have played together as a team makes it so much easier."

Last season was a bittersweet one for the United lads.

"We made the grand final and won the minor premiership but, unfortunately, didn't take the premiership out," Burns lamented.

"The grand final was a tough game."

"I wouldn't change a thing. It was a great experience and something I will always remember."

United lost 3-2 to South Melbourne in a cracker of a final.

"We didn't do badly. They just played really well."

Parramatta Power has been dubbed the Northern Spirit of Western Sydney, and this is clearly something that lifts Burns.

"They're trying to gather everyone over a wide spread area."

"I think the fact that so many juniors play the sport out in the west, means it can only increase the crowds and make the game stronger for the Ericsson Cup."

"I think Northern Spirit did really well last season with their crowds and their opening season and if we can go anywhere closer to that then I think we are doing a good job."

*Courtesy of Bankstown Torch Newspaper



Inside SOCCER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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WIN NEW SOCCEROO COACH'S BOOK

To celebrate Frank Farina's elevation to national coach (like we didn't know?), here is your opportunity to win a signed copy of his book.

The address to send your envelopes to is:

'Please send me Frank Farina's book' competition. INSIDE SOCCER 1/24 Prince William Drive, Seven Hills, NSW 2147.

So for your signed copy of Frank Farina's book 'MY WORLD IS ROUND, just answer the following question and put the answer on the back of the envelope.

QUESTION:

Which Serie A club did Frank Farina play for?

HURRY
LAST WEEKS!

FARINA

FRANK FARINA
A personal playing history



HAVE YOUR SAY

I would like to express my disappointment with the Adelaide Sharks, and their bloody-minded insistence for continued participation in the league, despite having absolutely no chance of competing with the likes of Perth and Northern Spirit.

Honestly, after all the negative, publicity who, apart, from Greek-Australians in Adelaide, would support this club?

Some people are living in the past and cannot see cold harsh reality. I would have to place Sydney United, Gippsland etc in this category.

Supporters of traditional clubs continually remind us of their past achievements, but this is quickly becoming ancient history, as new age clubs amass enormous financial wealth, thereby purchasing strong squads.

Traditional clubs, apart from South Melbourne, have very poor crowds, and in turn, bleak futures.

Even Les Murray has mentioned the myopia of the migrant clubs, and the league in a few years will resemble MLS in the United States (where ethnicity does not mean a thing, as people support SOCCER).

By refusing to leave the league gracefully, the Sharks are putting themselves ahead of the game by preventing

Adelaide United from entering the competition.

Any sympathy I might have had for their plight is now long gone. And if they pull out of the league mid season, then they owe compensation to the rest of the league for their recalcitrance.

Equally ridiculous is the Sydney United president threatening to sue Parramatta for signing virtually all of Sydney United's players.

It's not Parramatta's fault. Sydney United should be blame themselves for their ineptitude.

All I can say is that I'm very much looking forward to the revamping of the league from its current sorry, bloated state.

Hopefully, the Sharks etc will not be admitted. Really, do they deserve to play in a national league?

Finally, I was amused when the AFL and NRL used the recent American football (!) game as a promotional tool.

When the recent high profile football (real football) matches were played, these sporting organisations were nowhere in sight.

They really are scared of soccer, aren't they.

G. Owen, Victoria

TRIALISTS' BIG CHANCE IN CHINESE CLUB CUP

Sydney United play today in the Heng Shou Tang Cup, the seventh Shanghai International Football Tournament in China.

United will play against the Uruguayan premier division club team, opening the tournament today (Tues).

United's second match is on 21 August versus the Japanese side and their final match is on 24 August against the host city Shanghai.

The team that accumulates the most points after they play each other in the round robin will be crowned champions, collecting a healthy US\$80,000.

Each match will be shown on television with an expected audience of over 200 million people across Asia.

An expected crowd of 40,000 will be watching each game.

Sydney United's squad features eight trialists, mainly from the NSW Super League, and nine contracted players. One of the contracted players, Mirko Jurilj, played for the club in the early nineties but has spent the last few years in the Singapore S-League.

Notable signings for the club are Tom Pondeljak (Melbourne Knights) and Eddy Bosnar (Northern Spirit) who is expected to plug the gap left

by Richard Plesa and Joe Vrkic, who, along with a plethora of last year's squad, now play full-time with Parramatta Power.

Sydney United's squad is:

Velimir Kupresak, Eddie Bosnar (right), Tom Maric, Mirko Jurilj, Tom Pondeljak, Ante Moric, Joe Moric, Peter Ritchie, Vince Savocca (all contracted). Nahuel Arrarte, John Crawley, Stewart Van Bentum, Kain Rastall, David Reid, Nick Bosevski, Steve Bozinovski, Steve Tolios (all trialists).



And the most hyped press-release of the off-season goes to Marconi. Their breathless statement this week said the club's marketing plans 'have been draped in a cloak of silence', and that they plan to make the quantum leap into the 'sporting stratosphere' next month. Are they building a rocket from old pokie machines?

We will have to wait 'til next month but rest assured, we will be there at the 'sporting monolith' (their words) to bring you all the action from this earth shattering announcement!

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS SYDNEY UNITED

Sydney United is looking for more quality players and is giving you the opportunity to join us at our trials ...



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Call office for more info on

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*Please note all players must be born after Jan 1/81

Join the minor premiers, the club that has produced Socceroo stars such as Zeljko Kalac, Tony Popovic, Jason Culina, Ned Zelic, plus Graham Arnold, Robbie Slater and many more.

FANZINES



Last week we spoke to Melbourne-based fanzine *Studs Up*. This week we chat with the Sally Orpin and Richard Roberts, the inspiration behind another fine Australian fanzine *My Blue Heaven*. The 'zine is dedicated to Carlton SC. We first asked them what they felt made a good fanzine?

~Something that is attractive to the majority of fans, that isn't towing the party line, isn't sanitised like club publications, but most of all it should be irreverent and funny, yet still dealing with the issues that matter to the fans.

How important is the fanzine? Should every club in the NSL have one?

It's important for the reasons mentioned previously, as well as providing an outlet for the voice of the fans. It is a method of empowering the average fan. Ideally every club should have one, but if people can't be bothered to put one together, then obviously they don't deserve one.

If every club did have one, it would be a great way for all active Soccer fans in Australia to have a voice. This seems especially important when there is so little coverage of the game in the mainstream press.

So what do you think makes a good fanzine?

For it to be a good fanzine, lots of

conjecture, lots of drinking, lots of typing, its all consuming, you're always on the lookout for inspiration.

From MBH this year, you can expect the continuing high standards of journalism not found in the mainstream media, an informed view of football in Australia.

For example in our first issue of the new season, we will have exclusive interviews with Lou Sticca about the departure of Eddie Krncevic and the future of the club, including his role, and Stuart Munro in one of his first interviews talks of what he hopes to achieve in the coming campaign.

Last week *Studs Up* spoke of the importance of contributors. What are your thoughts?

Obviously without contributors, you don't have a fanzine. Getting contributors is difficult, in theory everyone wants to contribute, but in practice there's always the same hardcore that do deliver.

Now we certainly do screen what gets published, a lesson learnt the hard way.

Both of us have come from a English football background, where fanzines are viewed with the humour with which they are written.

Whereas in this country people seem to be more sensitive and perhaps don't understand what fanzine culture is.

Hopefully people will start to lighten up and we can say what we really think!

As devotees of fanzines, which ones do you think work well?

Sally's favourite fanzine is the Red Issue (Manchester United). Richard still has a soft spot for the Highbury High (Arsenal), a fanzine he helped start up.

Why do fans start up their own fanzines and is there a global culture attached to them?

Fanzines generally exist for the same reason world-wide, which is to give the fans an independent voice.

We're not really sure exactly how its

achieved world-wide as our Spanish, Portuguese, French and German skills are not what they might be, but the pictures look good.

How supportive has your club,



Carlton, been with your venture?

The club and the players are very supportive of MBH, except they did run a mile when we got a legal letter!!

Seriously, we've never been refused access to anyone currently at the club. The fanzine can often be seen being read by the players, especially by Andrew Marth when he is defending corners.

So, Carlton in 99/2000. How can well can the club do?

We think there's going to be a major improvement on the pitch and now also playing on Fridays we are hopeful the crowds will flock. Build it and they will come.

If you're a real football fan in Melbourne and don't have a club, what are you waiting for, get down to Carlton!!

CARLTON BEAT FAWKNER IN FRIENDLY

FAWKNER 0 CARLTON 3
At Jukes Road Fawkner
Wednesday 10 August

Carlton Starting line-Up
GK-Adrian Cagalj
LB-Steve Martin (pictured)
CB-Dave McPherson
CB-Serdar Pir
RB-Dave Grbac
LM-Issy Erdogan
CM-Unknown Trialist
CM-David Terminello
RM-Joe Tricarico
LF-Archie Thompson
RF-Mike Conroy

The second half started much the same as the first with Carlton goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj struggling to get the ball out of the box as the wind repelled his kicks.

Just as the hands started to freeze and toes dropped off the Carlton trialist was brought down in the box and penalty specialist Andrew Marth made it three in a row from the spot this campaign.

New recruit Mike Conroy was finally given a rest half way through the second half after finally succumbing to jet lag, however, he did show a few signs off his class. Alex Moreira was brought on as his replacement.

Then the real highlight/lowlight of the game occurred as a Fawkner play tackled Andrew Marth who then took up the challenge and started an all in brawl.

Later the real reason for the brawl was revealed by sources: "They were trying to huddle up and keep warm."

Somewhere along the line Carlton gave away a penalty but the goal was disallowed after there was a second touch by the Fawkner player after the ball rebounded back off the post.

Carlton finished the match 3-0 with nice Joe Tricarico goal as he snuck into the box to finish off some sloppy Fawkner defending.

With the season only six weeks away the race for a starting berth is really hotting up.

'Trumper'
(courtesy MBH)



On a cold and windy Melbourne winter night the Carlton pre-season stepped up a gear in front of a strong crowd at Fawkner Soccer Club.

Carlton decided to show off new Blackpool signing Mike Conroy only 24hrs after he entered the country. Conroy and partner Archie Thompson had little to do early as the game was trapped in midfield.

The wind and poor light was hindering any sort of quality play but Carlton managed to break a few times down the right courtesy off Issy Erdogan and Steve Martin.

However, just seconds before half time Carlton's new Scottish recruit Dave McPherson showed what he was brought in for by heading in a lovely Steve Martin free kick.

Dave McPherson's height and experience is going to prove very potent in the box for Carlton in the forthcoming season.

Carlton made two changes at half time giving Adelaide City recruit David Terminello a rest a bringing on captain Andrew Marth as well as taking off Archie Thompson for VIS signing Ange Moutsopoulos.

SWITCHED ON POWER SET TO LIGHT UP NSL

It's a midweek afternoon but the pokie players don't care. Seemingly transfixed, they're here to make and spend money at the Parramatta Leagues Club in western Sydney, a cavernous building with fountains, bars, bands, restaurants and gyms. Sort of a Club Marconi without the pasta. I am here to interview the people behind the club's latest venture: a football team in the National Soccer League.

Way above the din of money being dropped into slots, CEO of the League's club and the Rugby League side Parramatta Eels, Dennis Fitzgerald, proudly sits in the boardroom.

Located on the newly-built third floor, and largely funded by the poker players below, Fitzgerald looks across to Parramatta Stadium, or the 'Powerhouse', as it is to be called, the home of their new football club, Parramatta Power.

A former Eels player and a Rugby League international, Fitzgerald is a Parramatta institution having been involved with the club for over twenty years as a player and administrator.

Fitzgerald is a highly regarded figure in the Rugby League world and is being touted as a possible replacement for Neil Whittaker, the CEO of the National Rugby League (NRL), who resigned at the end of last week.

Fitzgerald says the Parramatta Leagues Club sees itself as a "community club", and is heavily involved in giving money back to the community in the form of sponsorship of sports such as soccer (Parramatta Eagles), Rugby Union, cricket club, basketball, water polo, cycling, touch football and many others.

Power's community launch will be held on September 18.

It first became involved with football through its sponsorship of the Eagles in the State League. When the Eagles sought entry to the national league a few years ago the Leagues Club was its main backer.

When the Eagles were denied entry Fitzgerald decided that the Leagues Club should seek entry in its own right (with minor support from the Eagles).

Fitzgerald also realised that the influx of new Leagues Club members came from diverse cultural backgrounds. "The demographics of the Parramatta population has been changing over the last ten years with a large number of people of Asian and European background moving into the area, and, as a result a large number of the 28,000 club members have an affinity with football, rather than Rugby League," he explained.

Having also seen the success of the Perth Glory and Northern Spirit, and the "future and potential of soccer", Fitzgerald believed that the time was ripe for his organisation to make its pitch to Soccer Australia.

As we all know, with a touch of

THE BATTLE FOR THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF SYDNEY'S SOCCER FANS IS NOW ON IN EARNEST. WEST-BASED PARRAMATTA POWER SAYS IT WANTS TO BE HERE LONG-TERM, AND THEY'VE GOT THE DOLLARS AND INFRA-STRUCTURE TO BACK IT UP. BUT IS THIS PROJECT FAIR DINKUM? DO THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO 'DO A SPIRIT'? INSIDE SOCCER'S AIDAN ORMOND SPENT THE DAY IN PARRAMATTA ...

bravado he hired David Mitchell and Lawrie McKinna as coaches and paraded the team's new jerseys before Soccer Australia even considered their application.

Fitzgerald's confidence was justified and SA duly endorsed their entry a few weeks ago.

Parramatta is the fourth biggest club in terms of gaming revenue in NSW and they are in the top twenty in terms of liquor sales. The club has just spent \$7million on renovations, which was done out of cash flow, not from borrowing money. In other words they are well equipped financially to support a strong team in the NSL.

The question is whether the club members, the die-hard league supporters, support the new venture?

Fitzgerald states that there was "no opposition at all" and that he expects that there will be a significant crossover support for the new football team (see interview next page with Power Marketing Manager Laurie McKinna).

The Rugby League team will not be penalised financially as the new NRL criteria limits the amount of money that a leagues club can provide to its Rugby League team.

In fact, the Rugby League team may benefit financially as the use of Parramatta Stadium during the summer



Ready to score for Parramatta? ... Power coach David Mitchell and striker Mile Sterjovski.

PARRAMATTA LEAGUES CLUB
28,000 members. Net assets of about 23.5 million. 28 other properties in North Parramatta (residential and commercial). This year the club is celebrating its 40th year. Four years as sponsor of local Super League side Parramatta Eagles

months will provide additional revenue to the Stadium Trust and thus provide the Leagues Club leverage in negotiating a new (and cheaper?) contract for use of the Stadium by the Rugby League team.

The Power team will be funded to the tune of \$3.5 million over five years - \$1 million for the first two years and \$500,000 over the ensuing three years.

The team has been provided with a \$3 million expense budget for the first year and part of the shortfall will be covered by a significant funding package from the main sponsor Asics (the sponsor of the League team).

The budget assumes an average crowd of 10,000 but Fitzgerald is confident that the team can match the average support of last year's trend-setters Northern Spirit (they play them in a friendly on Sep. 17).

Fitzgerald is confident that the organisation will break even within three years.

Both Fitzgerald and McKinna, the Power's marketing manager, are surprised at the number of other sponsorship offers they have received. Many

companies currently hiring the corporate boxes at the Stadium for the Rugby League team have already inquired about hiring them for the summer months as well.

The Power is putting together a cosmopolitan administrative and management staff with McKinna, a football man through and through, supported by a Public Relations team, Trish Sinclair and Erin Pope, who look after both the Rugby League and football teams.

The club's media launch for both kit and logo is on September 14.

Soon to join the team, as General Manager, is Brad Levy. Levy's brother Mark, is a former Rugby League player and he, himself, is currently employed as Executive Assistant to Whittaker in the NRL administrative headquarters.

The Power, Fitzgerald says, is all about "lifting the bar for all the other football clubs in the NSL."

And if they can do that, it's got to be good for the game here.

More next page ...

FAMILY ATMOSPHERE AT THE (POWER) HOUSE

These are early days for Parramatta Power's dedicated soccer office. Within view of the imposing monolith of the Leagues Club the hub of the Power is still bedding down. Even Mum is in helping!

The club's marketing manager is jovial Scotsman Laurie McKinna, while the soccer office is being run by Erin Pope with help from the Eels' Media/Community Relations person Trish Sinclair.

McKinna explained some of the club's marketing approach. "30,000 juniors from the five district associations in the west of Sydney have been given tickets, with the hope that they will bring family along to the games. That's just the start.

"Essentially we are targeting the five junior associations so everyone knows what's going on with Power: Bankstown, Macarthur, Nepean, Blacktown and Granville associations.

"Actually, this Saturday night we will be in Macarthur playing their seniors in a trial game, and tomorrow we will be down there doing an open training session and promoting the club to the kids (at Fields Soccer Club, check for details).

"There are 6,000 juniors down there and they are looking for a path into the NSL, which is where the Power comes in.

"In fact Macarthur told me that this year was the first time in 19 years that Marconi had contacted them, this was after Power was admitted. (Marconi grudgingly accept that assertion).

"We were even in Merrylands last week and there were over 200 kids for a promotion."

He went on: "Further to that, there will be the usual advertising in the media, and we are thinking about our own fortnightly newspaper, perhaps an insert or a section in the local press, entirely on the Power.

"In two weeks South Sydney play Parramatta Eels in the last game in the NRL, which is expecting 20-25,000 fans at Parramatta Stadium. We will be distributing 20,000 catalogues with season ticket prices and information on the Power.

"Plus the halftime 7-a-side game featuring Power players. We will be providing as much add on value as possible for our season ticket holders, which will be outlined in the catalogues.

"On match day there will be dancing girls, promotions, youth team games at five, entertainment, theme nights and bands, all

done through the person who does the Eels' entertainment.

"We will be contacting the British supporters' club for fans as well."

And local business is ready to support the venture: "Peter Wynn, which is a huge local sports store will be involved and Power credit union contacted us and would like to come on board and give us retail space in front of their store in Parramatta. They are keen to do this with the Eels and Power.

"And today I've had two calls from corporate boxes today wanting to spin over from the Rugby League," said McKinna.

Asics, the sportswear company, is Parramatta Power's major sponsor.

Some would say that the Carlton experience was not very good in terms of pulling crowds from another sport, why is it different for Parramatta? "It's a very community-based club with great traditions. Just being there on the weekend seeing them win you realize also how passionate the fans are - in fact a number of soccer fans I know go because of the atmosphere - it's like a soccer match.

"Now the fans will have something to watch in summer," adds Trish Sinclair, who is currently overseeing both clubs.

Power's trial games will dovetail with their promotions in their targeted areas. "We are playing a Bankstown Rep side and other Super League sides once the Carty Memorial Cup is over.



Girl Power ... Trish Sinclair (left) and Erin Pope.

"Penrith Lions, the first division side, have invited us. We will play Blacktown at Gabbie stadium and Parramatta Eagles at Melita Stadium, so we will be playing trial games and promoting ourselves at the same time."

I wondered whether they would like to duplicate anything that Spirit had done? "15,000 per game would be nice!" says McKinna. "Spirit have been very supportive from the beginning. They have done a great job and if we can learn anything from them great, we won't be afraid to seek them out."

"Having Power makes us stronger as a club," says Sinclair. The chant will be "Parra" I think, that is what you hear when the Eels are playing."

Power's energetic office administrator Erin Pope says she is learning the rules of soccer, having previously worked with the Eels. "My whole family follows Rugby League."

I wondered what here family thought of Power soccer? "Ask mum, she's here!" she replies.

"It really helps having the Eels there because everything is set-up there and it's been successful, all we need to do is duplicate it. We know what we have to do, only time is needed to show that we can make this the success we believe it can be," conclude Sinclair and Pope.



Parramatta Leagues CEO Dennis Fitzgerald and the Parramatta Stadium.

STERJOVSKI'S COOKING WITH GAS!

Mile Sterjovski's Asian Cooking Show may not be seen on TV this year, but the striker loves to cook up a tasty Asian stir-fry in his bachelor pad next to Parramatta Stadium. And the prospect of teaming up with his mate Joel 'The Surfie' Griffiths, has him licking his lips at the prospect of a Parramatta Power goalfeast.

"Joel and I are good mates," he explained during a break from training last week. "We played well together at Sydney United and we can do it again here at Parramatta Power.

"Sure Edensor Park (Sydney United's home) was a good stadium to play soccer in but it's going to be awesome playing here," he said while surveying the expanses of Parramatta Stadium (now called the Powerhouse for Power home games).

"There has been a fair bit of interest already in the club, so I am really looking forward to putting on a show for the fans."

It's been quite a four years for this now 20-year-old Wollongong-born striker.

After the AIS he headed for Sydney United, where he made his name in the Youth side before a rapid elevation to the first team and goalscoring success.

So having his mates around him (ten former Sydney United players are at Power) is a comfort despite feeling some pressure to perform this year. "Yeah, there is a bit of pressure on us because we got to the Grand Final final but I think

the players can handle it.

"It helps having the same bunch of blokes - it doesn't take long to settle in."

Barely a week in to the pre-season and training for Power is starting to get a little more serious ("the hard sessions will come after this week, Mitch does not want to overdo it").

Mitchell believes the players can be fitter than last year's Sydney United.

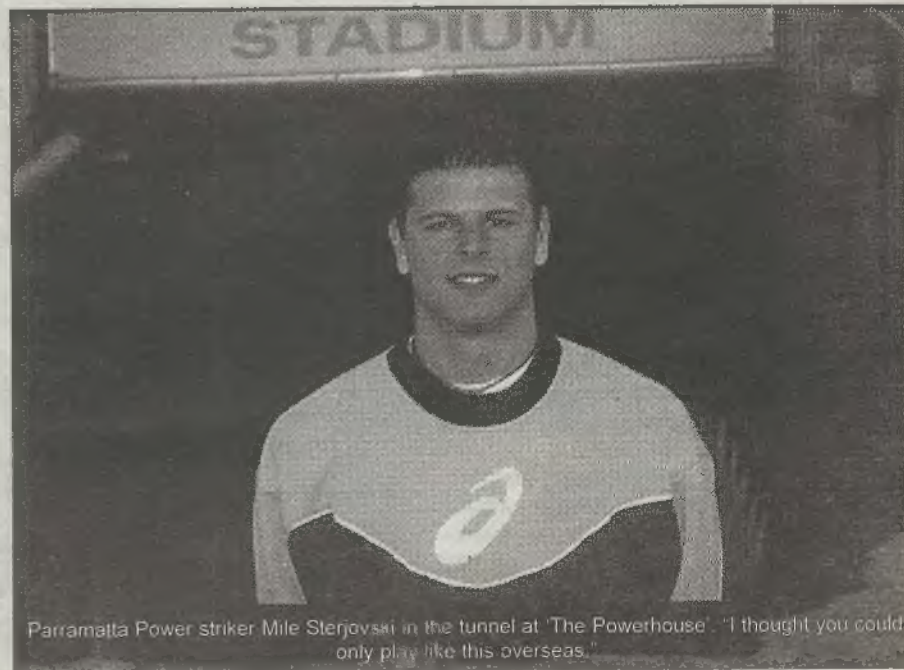
Speaking of the "Great Mitch" and clearly the Young Soccerroo striker has affection and warmth for the supercoach. "He is one of the best coaches I've had. You've got respect for him because you like him and get on with him. You want to perform for him."

Upon overhearing this David Mitchell jokes: "That's a big wrap Mile!" The two plainly get along well.

Sterjovski's future post-Power is almost certainly to be in Europe, with destinations such as Holland and Germany his ideal starting point to launch a career in the big leagues after Sydney 2000.

The professional set-up at Power, he readily admitted, will help him achieve this dream, with his manager, IMG's Bernie Mandic, doing the talking ("I don't want to think about those things, just to be fit and confident that's important to me and the rest should take care of itself").

Yet Sterjovski feels that the days of young talented Aussies automatically going overseas could be coming to an



Parramatta Power striker Mile Sterjovski in the tunnel at 'The Powerhouse'. "I thought you could only play like this overseas."

end.

"Who would have thought of this (looking at the stadium and Leagues club in the distance). I thought you could only play like this overseas. I reckon a lot more players will start staying here when you have the money coming in and clubs like Power," he added with a glint in the eye.

"I would like to definitely come back perhaps when my career is close to finishing, perhaps with Power? That would

be something."

Mile Sterjovski has even been watching a bit of Rugby League, with his Parramatta footballing brothers the Eels currently in the frame for an NRL finals berth.

Could the Eels be watching Power in the NSL finals? Nothing less will be good enough for Sterjovski and co. in this first year for Power Soccer in Sydney's west.

THE FULHAM FALCON!

By Aidan Ormond

Jeff Hopkins' 18 years experience as a professional footballer will be very handy as the Wales international prepares for his first full season as a coach in the Ericsson Cup. He takes over the reins at Gippsland Falcons recently vacated by Stuart Munro.

"I'd set my stall out to be more cautious. Maybe more counter-attacking, particularly away from home," he says of his coaching style.

"Coaching was something that I've always wanted to do. I have been a professional since I left school so you can't keep playing forever.

"Player/coaching is difficult, but it can be done. I've seen some successes with the dual role. I think the ability to take a step back is important but it's a hard balancing act mind you.

"It's not in my character to bollock players so much. This year I want the team organised, with the shape right 100% so everyone knows their roles. From there everything should flow."

Hopkins cites Steve Coppell, who he played under at Crystal Palace, as one of the best exponents of team organisation.

As for players for the new campaign, and Hopkins is still uncertain as to who he will have as negotiations are currently taking place, a process he finds unusual now he is the manager. "Hopefully we can hold on to some of the more experienced players to help the younger players, who last year, gained some good experience

"We'll be having evening sessions topped up with some day training. We

won't be far off being full-time professional, but yes it is a bit funny being on the other side of the desk during player negotiations.

"I can see the Ericsson Cup is trying to get as profes-

THE HOPKINS STORY ..
Started with Fulham in 1980, staying for eight years. Then sold to Crystal Palace for 250,000 in 88/89. Stayed four years. Then Bristol Rovers (loan for four months), before moving to Reading for five years, a year at Selangor in Malaysia, then Gippsland Falcons last year.

Wales: 16 full caps.
Highlight: Playing against Brazil aged 19. I marked Adair. It ended a draw and it was a huge boost to my career.

sion-al as possible. Most clubs are heading for full-time professionalism, so it's heading in the right direction.

"Personally, it's great living here. It's a smaller tight-knit community in Gippsland. People are so friendly, we've made a lot of friends, probably more so than a bigger city club. What I hanker for more than anything is a bit of success."

Hopkins arrived a year ago from the Malaysian M-League, and he says what we have here compares favourably to it.

"Quality-wise they are behind here. They have some quite neat and tidy players however. I'd don't think it compares,

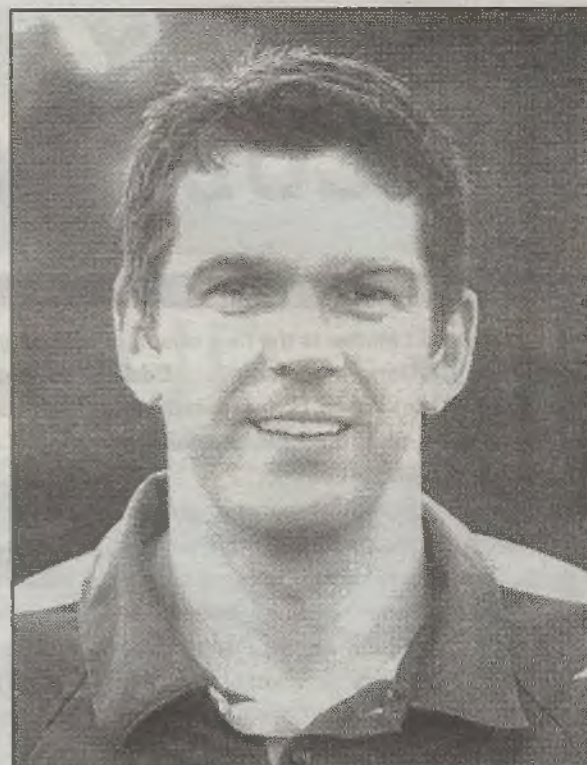
but I did enjoy playing there, what with the crowds. It's more of a national game there. Certainly the lifestyle is great. I enjoyed my time with Selangor (he played with Socceroo Mehmed Durakovic and Tony Cotte).

Now with the influx of players like himself and Carlton's Davie McPherson, Spirit's Ian Crook, experienced UK professionals, I wondered how he viewed it? "I think it's good to import lots of different types of players. The players you mentioned have been brought up as full-time professional players, so there is an attitude and general outlook on the game which can help some of the lads here."

The recently revealed 'Team Gippsland' plans are a welcome injection for the club says their new coach. "Plans are drawn up and in the process. It's a great concept and it's all on land owned by Gippsland Falcons. It gives the club a direction and planning for the future. Perhaps over the last few years things may have slowed down with the club and also the local economy, but this is a boost."

As fate would have it, the first game of the season is against Carlton. "We are really excited and it gives us something to focus. The lads have come back very fit, and they have worked so hard in the last few weeks in pre-season training.

"There is a lot of respect for Stuart



Gippsland Falcons' new player/coach Jeff Hopkins ... it's funny being on the other side of the manager's desk

and being Carlton it adds a lot of spice to the fixture, given the amount of ex-Gippsland players they have." (Tricarico, Thompson, Douglas plus of course Munro and previous Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic).

So what does he think about the game's future in Australia: "I think if it's handled properly it can go a long way. When you go to Glory and Spirit you see the great atmosphere and the way they present the game, so clubs can learn from that.

So if the game is marketed properly, and clubs are starting to go full-time already, then perhaps in ten years we can be pulling some really big crowds and the AFL will really start to be worried."

CARLTON'S RECRUIT FLYING HIGH!

By Aidan Ormond

Spare a thought for new Carlton signing Mick Conroy. Barely four days after landing in Melbourne - on the back of a 24-hour flight from London - the striker flies off with his new teammates to China for a 14-day pre-season tour. After three one hour internal flights they come back to Melbourne, and four days later Conroy is set to jet back to the UK to tie up some loose ends before flying back to Melbourne for more pre-season training!

"We've got a fitness test tomorrow," said the jovial Glaswegian after arriving. "If I don't do well I'll just blame it on the jet lag!" Not that he should fail, he has been in training with English second division outfit Blackpool since July 1.

The 32-year-old Conroy arrived at the financially troubled Seasiders from Fulham in March 1998 for 50,000 pounds. He has also played for Coventry, Chester, St Mirren and Clydebank.

Conroy however does have an Aussie connection. His wife is Melburnian so he had visited her family before, and, is looking forward to settling down in the Southern capital ("the weather's more like back home just the minute!").

Conroy, however, was humble about his club achievements in the UK: "That won't take too long! Seriously though, I've played against Dave McPherson and Stuart Munro. But in my career in Scotland Souness had just taken over Rangers, and they had Terry Butcher and Graham Roberts who were tough, plus Ray Wilkins, who also coached me later at Fulham."

So the Carlton move came through a desire to play in a Stuart Munro team? "Well I'd read in the UK press that Stuart Munro had the job at Carlton. So I rang him up, actually I got him out of bed and I don't think he knew who I was, but I think he remembered playing against me and asked for a CV to be sent. I had a year left at Blackpool but had a free transfer. Carlton made a few inquiries and signed me."

Conroy is well-placed to comment on the growing gulf between Premier and smaller clubs. "Oh, yes, definitely it's there. Sunderland played Burnley and absolutely battered them," he says. "Then Sunderland got beaten 4-0 at Chelsea on the opening day, so the gap between the top Premier clubs is probably widening,

and the Premier itself is pulling away from the lower leagues."

So what's the future for the humbler lower league club with small crowds? "Clubs like Burnley are quite big, but the smaller clubs, I just don't know. Sky now dictates the time of kick-offs and it seems with TV money the rich are getting richer."

The influx of foreign players, is it harming or helping things? "When I was a young lad my ambition was to play for Celtic just like thousands others. Now, look how many local players play for Celtic? That's just one example, it's happening all over, so the opportunities for the younger players just aren't there like they used to be. Look at Chelsea, Rangers and Newcastle. It's great watching for the fans but for the players, I really don't know.

"The Bosman ruling has not done the game any favours. People don't realize that the clubs have the pick of the players, I think there were 300-400 players looking for clubs over the summer in the UK.

So can you make a reasonable living in the English and Scottish non-Premier divisions? "Well, you can make a living, but whether you can save is another thing. I've been lucky that I have had transfers after my con-



tracts have expired, but some of the smaller clubs are really struggling with player payments and bonuses."

So what is Conroy's future plan? "The plan is to stay longer in Melbourne. Two years to bed myself in with my two-year contract at Carlton.

"I've my UEFA 'B' coaching badge with my final exam in September, obviously that has to be put on the back burner. I actually was working with the U/12s at Burnley's School of Excellence, taking sessions twice a week, which I really enjoyed. I've brought some coaching notes and I will be looking for sitting the Australian equivalent."

Although he is unsure of whom he will play or what the opposition is like, Conroy says Carlton is "quietly confident that we can do well. I know Jeff Hopkins, I've played against the 'Big Man', and that is our first game, which I am really looking forward to. I heard that Perth is big although it's very hot I believe. It's all a new experience for me.

"I haven't seen anything of the league but you've just got to look at the players such as Viduka, Moore and Vidmar in Scotland to realize that it must be quite high."

CANNY SCOT BUILDING A COSMOPOLITAN CARLTON



Stuart Munro is the new coach of Carlton, replacing Eddie Krncevic who steered the expansion club through its inaugural two years in the League.

Munro had previously coached Gippsland Falcons, and played with Sydney United. But he also has a distinguished playing career in Scotland and England, with Glasgow Rangers and Blackburn Rovers, and had played under renowned coaches Graeme Souness, Walter Smith, and Kenny Dalglish.

Carlton's new administrative headquarters is smack bang in the middle of Melbourne's sporting precinct. The MCG could be reached by a Dean Anastasiadis goal-kick, and the Tennis Centre, Basketball's Glasshouse, and Carlton's new home ground - Olympic Park - are just a short walk away.

I first asked Munro about the China tour (they left Saturday).

"Carlton went to China last year and apparently it was a successful trip. This year we had an offer to go to Singapore, and also they wanted us to back to China again. We're looking at making this China thing an ongoing event - there were a few teething problems last year, but I think they've been sorted out.

"Last year some of the training facilities were poor, but (this time) they've promised it's going to be good - hotels, food, and that sort of stuff weren't a problem last year. The games last year were quite a distance apart, but this year we'll only have about an hour's flight between each venue."

Munro is using the tour to have a look at his players in competitive games, and do some team-building amongst the squad which this season will have a number of newcomers - notably ex-Scottish international Dave McPherson.

Munro told me that McPherson will miss the early part of the tour as he has to return to Scotland on some private business, but expects McPherson to join the tour somewhere in China.

"I'm disappointed, and it's unfortunate that he's not going. It was going to be important for these guys to get to know each other. 'Big Slim' (McPherson) is going to be such a big part of the team this year as a defender, and now he's not going to be there. We'll have to rely on

(Kiwi international) Sean Douglas to be the experienced campaigner in defence and sort things out.

"Craig Deans might not even play a game over there because of his shoulder injury (picked up in Perth's game against Sydney United at Marconi in last year's Finals Series). We took him hoping that if everything goes to schedule, he might be able to play the last game for us on tour. But taking him is good for team morale."

"There's a lot of new faces (in the team), and the tour is basically to get them together and work on the shape of how we might play next season. We'll also be working on the quality of our play."

Signing Dave McPherson was a coup for Carlton. McPherson had a successful career at Glasgow Rangers and

SINCE TAKING OVER AS CARLTON COACH, STUART MUNRO (RIGHT) HAS USED THE CHEQUE BOOK TO SIGN SOME IMPRESSIVE UK SIGNINGS. INSIDE SOCCER'S ALAN CLARK HAD A CHAT TO THE FORMER BLACKBURN ROVERS DEFENDER...



The squad also boasts a number of other imports from the English and Scottish Leagues - strikers Mike Conroy ex-Blackpool, and Stuart Slater once of West Ham and Glasgow Celtic will be pulling on Carlton shirts this year (see

been fourteen or fifteen players in Australia I've tried to bring to Carlton this year who've not been interested to come, for whatever reason. I've actually been finding it easier to talk to players overseas. I have tied up two or three of the best young players in Australia - boys from the AIS - who'll come on board at Christmas time."

John Markovski is however a significant domestic signing, returning to the club he left for Perth Glory last year. "Yeah - we'll just work on his fitness a bit and he'll be fine. He'll be a good quality signing, and I'm looking forward to working with him.

"He's 29 now and he badly wants to win something. I can see it in (Markovski's) face - he really is hungry to win something. So too are Lubo Lapsansky and Andrew Marth. It's my job to channel this."

The injury to Simon Colosimo whilst playing for Australia against Manchester United is a terrible blow to the player, and to Carlton. Colosimo would have figured heavily in any Carlton line-up and surely have provided a marketing focus. I asked Munro what he believes the ramifications are for Carlton of this injury - likely to keep Colosimo out of the game for most of the year.

"I like Simon, I like him a lot as a player. When I saw him playing against Brazil in Sydney a couple of years ago, I thought he was outstanding. He's got a big future, and it's a shame what happened. But that happens in the game sometime and you've got to get on with it.

"He'll get the full support of the club here and from people in the medical field and the players as well. He came to the friendly game on (last) Wednesday night, and now he's getting a wee bit more mobile, we'll start to get him more involved with the club in some other capacity until he's ready to return."

As coach of Gippsland Falcons last year, Munro would have looked on at Carlton's last season form - one of the tear-away leaders in the first half of the season, but only to have a terrible form slump in the second half.

Continued Next Page



Drawcard Dave McPherson with Carlton coach Stuart Munro. Already UK supporters in Melbourne are getting behind Carlton and their many UK stars

Heart of Midlothian, and played for Scotland.

Munro was enthusiastic at McPherson's influence already in just his first month at Carlton.

"Because I've brought Big Slim into the club, the response I'm getting from Andrew Marth and Lubo Lapsansky is outstanding. I think players like that that give a huge lift to their team-mates. I think I've put together a very strong squad of players. I'm very excited about the squad."

Conroy interview in this issue).

Munro explained the imports: "These guys are true professionals. We're investing (what to us is) significant money - but I can't believe we're getting some of these to come over here in comparison to what they're getting in Britain. They are here to benefit the young players, and I can see how the (other) players have benefited already."

Munro has had less luck in bringing domestic players to the club. "I was counting last week, and I reckon there've

THE JOEYS

AUSTRALIA

1 KEDWELL-VANSTRATTAN, Jess
2 LOCKHART, Shane
3 CANSDELL-SHERRIFF, Shane
4 GOULDING, Aaron
6 BYRNES, Mark (c)
7 NORTH, Jade
9 DI IORIO, Joseph
10 PANTELIS, LUCAS
(82 min. 12 KENNEDY, Joshua)
11 McDONALD, Scott
(62 min. 17 MACALLISTER, Dylan)
14 JOHNSON, James
(38 min. 8 BRAIN, Louis)
16 SRHOJ, Wayne
Australian Cautions
26 min. 16 North, Jade
49 min. 3 CANSDELL-SHERRIFF, Shane.
Bahrain Cautions
43 min. 12 SALMAN, Husain
48 min. 10 HUBAIL, Aala

Venue: Bruce Stadium, Canberra
Attendance: approx. 1000
Temperature: 4 deg c (38 deg f)

Continued from page three...

His cross from the left byline, intended for striking partner Scott McDonald, was intercepted by Bahrain 'keeper Sanad but found it's way back to De Iorio who touched the ball past a defender and prepared to shoot. Bahrain full-back Sari Fajad's lunging tackle gave the Slovakian referee no option but to point to the penalty spot.

De Iorio coolly slotted his kick into the bottom left corner of the net to give the Australians the lead. However the goal seemed to awaken the visitors who leveled the scores ten minutes later after Joeys central-midfielder Wayne Srhoj brought down Bahrain captain Adel Al-Noaimi 25 yards out from goal.

Although Husain Ali scuffed his attempted long-range shot, it fell fortunately to striker Husain Salman who expertly turned his defender and knocked the ball past Joeys 'keeper Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan.

The Australians

STATISTICS

AUS - BAH
2 Corners 5
1 Offsides 2
10 Shots 5
5 Shots on goal 2
2 Cautions (Y) 2
0 Expulsions (R) 0
20 Fouls 11

soon recovered their composure and regained the lead in the 37th minute. After another penetrative cross from the left, Srhoj's header was brilliantly saved by Sanad at point-blank range. However the ball was deflected straight onto the head of Joeys captain Mark Byrnes who gleefully accepted the opportunity.

De Iorio almost increased the margin a minute later with a sweetly struck drive but Sanad once more impressed by diving to his left and diverting the ball around the post.

The striker's frustration was relieved numerous times throughout the remainder of the match, with the Joeys unable to capitalise on the many chances they created.

Substitute Josh Kennedy, who replaced Pantelis fifteen minutes from full-time made an immediate impact with two excellent attempts at goal - both brilliantly saved by Sanad at full stretch - before turning provider.

In the 91st minute Kennedy flicked on North's cross from the right into the path of Louis Brain who lobbed the ball over the keeper into the open net only to have the goal disallowed for a marginal offside call.

Two minutes later Srhoj and Kennedy combined before the latter's cross found an unmarked Dylan MacAllister at the back of the box. Unfortunately he sprayed his shot high and wide of the target.

Deep into stoppage time Byrnes almost capped off a wonderful match by clinching his second goal of the game. MacAllister's cross found the Joeys' captain unmarked in front of goal but he headed wide of the mark.

Byrnes later suggested the Joeys performed well given the circumstances.

"We haven't really played any strong opposition going through the Oceania qualifiers," he said.

"To come here and play against this stronger team it was a harder match but I think the boys did well. We were a bit unlucky not to score a couple more, which would have been nice, but it happens."

The Australian team fly out on August 16th, and will play a trial match in Qatar before traveling on to Bahrain. Should they progress through to the World Championships they will meet Brazil, Germany and Mali, in what Scheinflug has already labeled "the Group of Death".

STUART MUNRO

Continued from page ten...

I asked if Munro had been taking notice of this, and if he could pinpoint what were the reasons.

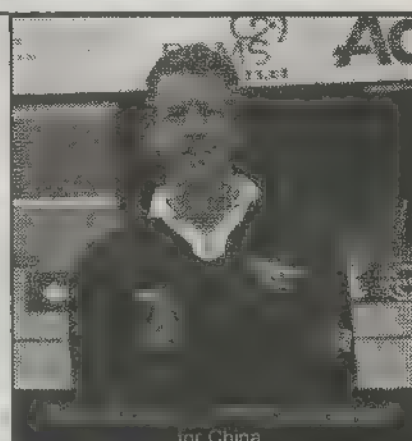
"I've seen the videos of last season, and they were quite unlucky a couple of times. But the key thing - and Eddie (Krnecic) said it when he was here was that they lost too many experienced players. They didn't replace them - whether it was that the club couldn't fund it I have no idea. The first thing I said when I took over was that we can't have a situation where we're playing five or six young kids - you might get away with one or two, but you can't with five or six."

The Falcons last year were Munro's first NSL team as a coach - what had he learnt from the experience?

"(Coaching Gippsland) was probably the best job I could have taken in Australia to start off my coaching career. I was doing everything - contracts, paperwork, signing players - everything as well as coaching."

That was good because I now know what's going on with visa players, signing their contracts - everything. I know these things inside out like some of the managers and administrators. I don't have to do that at Carlton, but it's good having that knowledge.

"Gippsland is a terrific club. There's no reason why they can't get a support, but I think the people there won't realise it until they lose it. It's a great community there, it's a lovely place to live."



for China

The Valley itself is a friendly, friendly place - my first son was born there last year, so it's got a special meaning to me. As far as professional football is concerned, Gippsland's got a lot of hard work ahead of it to compete at the level that some of the teams are trying to achieve.

"Full-time professionalism is a must if football any kind of quality sport in this country."

Carlton's China squad: **Goalkeepers:** Dean Anastasiadis, Adrian Cagalj. **Defenders:** David Grbac, Sean Douglas, David Della Rocca, Craig Deans, Serdar Pir. **Midfielders:** David Terminiello, Andrew Marth, Lubo Lapsansky, Steve Martin, Andy Packer, Mark Atkinson, Izzy Erdogan. **Forwards:** Alex Moreira, Joe Tricarico, Mike Conroy, Archie Thompson, Ange Moutsopoulos, John Markovski.

Dave McPherson had to return to Scotland and may make the later stages of the tour. Craig Deans may not be fit to play until later in the tour.

New signing Stuart Slater will not be joining Carlton until 1 September, and Con Anthopoulos isn't available for the tour.

OZ NEWS ROUND-UP

First stop in this big beautiful land is Adelaide. Adelaide City's reform agenda, that is making the club a viable entity in the NSL is on track and ready to roll. New General Manager of the club, Ned Coton, has told us that on August 25 there will be a "big" announcement regarding their future directions.

Changing the club's marketing strategy is vital says Coton, because if they don't "the club will be in trouble."

He also spoke of the supporters forums they have been holding, which is a way the club can communicate their ideas to the members. "Change is easy when you realize the alternatives," added Coton. Apparently some of the older members of this club are taking longer to embrace these ideas than some of the others.

I am sure we would all like to see this club, with its great history and tradition, prosper through change rather than be stuck in some timewarp that precipitates its demise.

On the park and a Brazilian could be on way. Coach Zoran "I look grumpy but

once you get to know me" Matic is looking at a Brazilian and a couple of Euro stars to add to his squad that already features Socceroo star Aurelio Vidmar and Olyroo Ivan Zelic. Good luck guys

Perth Glory is finally able to say "We've sold Danny Hay to Leeds". The big defender's transfer was news in New Zealand, and a feather in the cap of their football. Speaking of NZ (well they are part of our league now), there is some consternation over there about the time frame there Auckland Kings have been given in our NSL. Apparently FIFA has said it will be a two year agreement. After that we presume they have to be back in a NZ league. Needless to say, the soccer sages, scribes and fans are not happy with this. IS also has heard that the Kings, who are in a legal battle with Sydney Kings basketball over the name, are not exactly well-organised off the field and even on. What's going on? We will try to find out. Anyway, the Kings have signed former Wolves striker Robbie Middleby. He has been playing in Germany.

In Canberra and the Matildas and coach Greg Brown have parted company. It seems the results at the World Cup were not good enough and both parties felt it was best to split. Chris Tanzey (pictured) will take up the reins indefinitely. Let's

hope Julie Murray and our Magic Matildas can regain their sparkle and do us proud at Sydney 2000. And the Cosmos have signed on loan Spirit's young striker Daniel Watkins

Over in Gippsland and assistant coach Claudio Canosa is now looking for work in Australia. The board has released him from his coaching role. The 35 year old has his Level 3 high performance coaching certificate and he is also a physical fitness coach. He has the experience of playing in four countries, as well as playing 190 times for the Falcons. He is now a free agent.

He can be contacted on 03 59770362 and 0412348267.

In Wollongong they have signed on with Umbro kit makers, and apparently the strip will be based on Man Utd's. On the field and Michael Brooks has been released as have the two Tahitians who played at the back end of last year, while New Zealander Neil Harlock is back.

Andy Harper to Newcastle? Could be, maybe ... Scot Robbie Shannon is not playing this year at Breakers stadium and Sang Chul-Yoon, their Korean striker is still training with Power.

Former Sydney Olympic striker Derek Poimer, lately of the Sharks, has retired due to continuing knee problems.



Let's hope this is not a long-term retirement and the nuggety striker can get back to full fitness. Another retirement is Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos. The club has keeper Jimmy Kourtis and is looking at Blacktown gloveman Fernando Greco. Wolves' Baz Sinozic and Newcastle's Freddy Umlil are possible signings for the Blues.

Spirit reject Paul Foster is now at Brisbane, as is gun local Greg Di Losa. And Spirit keeper Peter Blazincic, in case you missed it, is back in Adelaide playing with the troubled Sharks.

Marconi to play their games on a Sunday at 6pm. Is this better than Saturday nights? Hmmmnnnnnnnnnn.

COSMOS AND EAGLES OFF TO A FLYER IN CHARITY CUP

By Ben Cubby

Canberra Cosmos defeated NSW Super League champions Blacktown City 3-2 in the opening match of the David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Cup at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

Young midfielder Brendan Salameh put Blacktown in front after 11 minutes when he found himself completely unmarked inside the Canberra penalty box and chipped the ball past 'keeper Grant Barlow from close range.

Playing their first competitive game of the season, the Cosmos looked understandably rusty, but they gradually began to find some rhythm and work their way into the match.

New striker Danny Watkins, on loan from Northern Spirit, cracked a shot on target in the 17th minute, only to see Blacktown custodian Fernando Greco tip the ball just over the bar.

Canberra equalised from the resulting corner, when Greco failed to claim Ivo DeJesus' cross and Danny Burt was on hand to chest the ball into the net.

Stuart Cleary had the NSW champions in the lead again in the 21st minute. A defence splitting pass from Damien Brown found Steve Riches, who cut the ball back nicely for the lanky striker to tap in from the edge of the six yard box.

Skilful Cosmos midfielder Gabriel Gonzalez created Canberra's second goal on the half-hour mark. His persistence down the right flank resulted in a perfect cross to Watkins, who centred the ball for DeJesus to power a header past Greco.

Canberra's midfield duo of Gonzalez and Alex Castro looked better and better as the game progressed, a promising sign for the coming NSL season.

The pair combined well for Cosmos' winner in the 70th minute. Castro danced around a couple of Blacktown defenders before chipping the ball to Gonzalez, who rocked the net with a half-volley from 20

metres.

Canberra coach Tom Sermanni gave trialist Filip Marzec a full game and the former Sydney Olympic youth team defender looked reasonably solid at the back. Another trialist, George Maglis and AIS youngster Matthew Kemp came on in the second half and they both played their part in the victory.

Canberra now advances to face Marconi at the same ground at 4pm on Sunday 22nd August.

Canberra Cosmos 3 - Blacktown City 2

Cosmos: Barlow, Prenzoski (Conlon 59), Popovich (Maglis 45), Burt, Purdue, Gonzalez, Castro, DeJesus, Watkins, Arranz (Kemp 46)

Blacktown City: Greco (Reid 74), Lowe, Foxe, Yates, Brown, Salameh (D'Allesandro 46), Weber, Smith, Cleary (Wynn 35), Langan, Riches.

Parramatta Eagles cruised to a 4-1 victory over NSW Super League rivals Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the second match of the Carty and Forsyth Memorial Cup at Marconi Stadium.

After a tight opening period, Parramatta took the lead through George Wakim in the 23rd minute. A brilliant through-ball from Malcolm Meilak reached Tony Mittiga, who touched it on for the teenage striker to shoot past Malden Kos in the Bonnyrigg goal.

Wakim got a second goal seven minutes later when his low, hard cross from the by-line was fumbled into the net by the Bonnyrigg 'keeper.

The White Eagles showed some flashes of class, especially when Robert Gomez started to take players on, but the closest they came to scoring in the first half was a couple of set-piece efforts from Paul Dee.

Two second-half substitutes combined to put Parramatta further ahead in the 57th minute. Adam Anderson atoned

for a glaring miss moments earlier when he leapt high to meet a superb cross from Glen Meilak and place a header into the roof of the net. It was all Parramatta at this stage, and the impressive Mauricio Islas saw his looping 25 metre shot hit the inside of the post and roll agonisingly along the goal-line to safety.

Hassan Kdouh pulled one back for Bonnyrigg in the 84th minute with a low drive past Parramatta's substitute 'keeper Michael Xuereb, after good lead-up work from Gomez.

In the final minutes of the match, Bonnyrigg goalkeeper Kos produced two spectacular saves to deny Paul O'Grady and then Glen Meilak. O'Grady had the last laugh, though, when he headed home another accurate cross from Meilak in the 88th minute to make the final score 4-1.

With players like O'Grady, Grant Bard and Ballamobou Conde likely to move to NSL clubs in the near future, Parramatta are already bringing in a number of youngsters into the first team. Glen Meilak, John Kelso, Geoff Dwyer, and Ben Delicata were all impressive in this match and look like cementing a place in the squad for next season's Super League campaign.

Parramatta's victory means that they will now take on Sydney Olympic at Marconi Stadium at 2pm next Sunday in round two of the Memorial Cup.

Parramatta Eagles 4 - Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1

Parramatta: Homes (Xuereb 59), Utjesenovic (Gatt 72), Kelso, Dwyer, Reveley (O'Grady 46), Conde, Wakim (Anderson 46), M. Meilak, Mittiga, Islas, Delicata (G. Meilak).

Bonnyrigg: Kos, Xuereb, Dragas, Crnokrak, Richardson, Harding (Mandic 81), Ghiso (Leki 63), Neilson (Kdouh 66), Gomez, Green Dee.

Meanwhile, Luke Bear reports that Frank Farina celebrated his

appointment as coach of the Socceroos in style as his team, Marconi, beat an under-strength Macarthur Rams 4-0 at Lynwood Park on Sunday.

The Stallions beat the NSW Super League team that drew on players largely from their Under 18 and Under 21 squads.

Although the scoreline suggests an easy win, it was certainly a different affair with the youngsters really taking it to their more lavish and illustrious opponents.

Newly confirmed Rams coach Brian Dene believes that this weekend's clash against Parramatta Power will see how much potential his team really has.

"We've lost quite a few players including John Crawley and Dion Valle, the game against Power and Marconi will give our young guys a lot of experience," Dene



said after the game.

"In the game against Marconi we had a mixture of young players and some 1st graders, so to organise them for this match was very hard," Dene added.

The young boys from Macarthur worked very hard in the second half to keep Marconi scoreless. In the first half, goals were scored by captain, Brad 'Bugsy' Maloney and striker Sean Babić, with two each.

The opening goal came courtesy of Maloney - after great lead up work from the Stallions Kris Tajanovski delivered a pin point cross to the unmarked Maloney in the six yard box, and he casually converted it past 'keeper Peter Munsie.

The second goal was scored by the lightning quick striker Sean Babić who shot the ball past Munsie and just inside the goal post.

Bugsy Maloney thought that one goal to his name just wouldn't suffice, so after a quick '1-2' around the Rams defence all that was left to do was to place it past the stranded 'keeper for a 3-0 lead.

Babić wasn't to be outdone as he skilfully dribbled around the Macarthur defence to slot home the final goal.

"I think we did quite well against the Rams, before the game Frank (Farina) said to go out there and enjoy ourselves and to hold onto the ball," Stallions midfielder Brendan Renaud said after the game.

It's good to see Brad back with two goals, Sean also played well with a couple as well, I think we're looking very sharp," Renaud added.

Rams: Munsie, Lloyd, Horne, O'Shea, Newell, Cevenini, Attard, Thompson, Dufficy, Williams, Whiddett
Stallions: Hughes, Kim, Longo, Babić, Invincible, Gibson, McDonald, Trajanovski, Zoric, Babić, Maloney.

DIG AT THE TOAST OF MANLY

Manly Warringah booked a place in the 1999 First Division Grand Final with a penalty shoot-out win over St George at Moorebank's Hammondville Oval on Sunday, the last of the Dolphins' five penalties coming from the boot of Alan Hunter to seal the Saints' fate.

Manly keeper Dean McCreath had saved the first two of the Saints' penalties, which player-coach Paul Carter got under way with a shot that the keeper read very well and those early misses then set up the win for Manly.

The teams had played for two hours without breaking the deadlock and it was clear that St George were missing their injured pairing of Stefan Janic and Tim Preston neither of whom is likely to be playing again for some time.

In the other game at St

George Stadium Penrith edged out Stanmore 1-0, with a late goal from substitute Robert Wozniczka and a superb display by new Parramatta Power goalkeeper Mike Gibson denying the Hawks with some fine saves.

The most important save came from Nick Kambounias deep into stoppage time, which avoided the need for extra time and was from point blank range.

DIVISION ONE:

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Manly Warringah 0 drew St George 0 (Manly Warringah 0 drew St George 0 extra time, Manly Warringah 4 bt St George 3 Penalties)

UNDER 21: St George 2 bt Manly Warringah 0

UNDER 18: AC United 4 bt Penrith Panthers 2

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Penrith Panthers 1(R Wozniczka 80m) bt Stanmore Hawks 0.

UNDER 21: AC United 3 bt Penrith Panthers 1.

UNDER 18: Moorebank Sports 1 drew Stanmore Hawks 1 (Moorebank Sports 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 3 Penalties)

DIVISION TWO:

FIRST GRADE: Belmore Hercules 2 bt Greystanes 1, Sydney University 5 bt Sydney District 1, Hurstville ZSC 2 bt Sydney District 0, University of NSW 3 bt Greystanes 1, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Arncliffe Scots 1, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Hills United 1, Sydney University 8 bt Belmore Hercules 2, Fraser Park 7 bt Mt Druitt Town 0

UNDER 21: Greystanes 1 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Sydney University 2 bt Sydney District 1, University of NSW 6 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hurstville ZSC 3 bt Sydney District 2, Greystanes 5 bt University of NSW 0, Arncliffe Scots vs Hajduk Wanderers W.O, Hills United 6 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Belmore Hercules vs Sydney

University P/P, Fraser Park 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 0.

UNDER 18: Greystanes 2 drew Belmore Hercules 2, Sydney University 3 bt Sydney District 0, Sydney District vs Hurstville ZSC W/O, University of NSW 3 bt Greystanes 2, Hajduk Wanderers 2 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Mt Pritchard 2 bt Hills United 0, Belmore Hercules 4 bt Sydney University 3, Mt Druitt Town 3 bt Fraser Park 0

FIRST GRADE: Balmain 1 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, Granville Greenisland 2 drew Nepean District 2, Princeswood United 4 bt Sydney Crescent 0, CSI Schofields 4 bt Marrickville 1, Hawkesbury City 3 bt White Valley 0, Holy Cross Ryde 4 bt Springwood 1, Auburn Star 1 bt United Eagles 0

SOCCER CANBERRA

Monaro hold out Deakin By Nathan Long

Despite playing 85 minutes with 10 men, Monaro fought out a tough all draw with Canberra Deakin at Deakin on Sunday.

Monaro defender Nick Mathas was shown the red card in the 10th minute following a dangerous sliding tackle on Deakin's Ben Degihan.

His dismissal pressed Monaro into action, and in the first half they had more chances than Deakin, even though Deakin seemed to get the better run of play.

Degihan showed great touch, consistently giving the Monaro midfield headaches. He had a shot blocked by Monaro keeper Peter MacLeod in the 17th minute and created another half-chance 60 seconds later.

In the 34th minute Monaro let their best scoring chance get away.

They were awarded a penalty kick after Deakin's Anthony Rakic tripped Joe Campagna on the left side of the box. Monaro captain Danny Macor took the shot and pushed it wide left after Deakin keeper Pedro Pavez dived to the right.

Deakin scored first in the 60th minute after a corner. Degihan headed the ball into the top left corner off Rakic's cross. The ball glanced off Degihan's head and looped over the mass of players into the goal mouth.

Monaro replied 12 minutes later when Danny Macor chipped a well timed pass over three Deakin defenders to a flying Lazar Simeonov, who then popped the ball over the advancing Pavez.

In the last 10 minutes, Deakin had three chances to steal a victory. Deakin captain Mladen Rogic soared high to meet a Dukic cross, but headed it away from goal. One minute from fulltime MacLeod saved another dangerous Rogic header.

Monaro coach Andrew Monterosso was somewhat disappointed his side didn't come away with the win. "Even with ten men we were still the far better side on the day, but I'm glad we got the two points."

Deakin coach Bernie Custica was equally philosophical. "When you look at it, probably a fair result, but it's a point lost to us because we would have been equal with Monaro had we beaten them."

Queanbeyan beat Burns By Nick Guoth

On a beautiful sunny day, those who ventured out to watch Queanbeyan City Lions play Burns Club would have been very impressed with their team and would have much hope for

the future.

For the record Queanbeyan won 3-0, but they should have demolished their opponents. They played nearly a full half of the game with only 10 men, but the workrate of Frane Pratezina was overwhelming.

The signs were there early for Burns when only two minutes in a cross from Zmeljko Trajkovski made it to the far post for Steve Roberts to volley forcing Owen McDermott to pull off a great save.

Roberts then went off ill and whilst being treated Queanbeyan struck. A cross from Vasko Stojceski came into the box. Peter Thompson, under pressure from Goran Veljanovski, headed the ball back to his keeper. Only one problem - the keeper had come out and could only turn to watch it slowly roll into the empty net.

At the half-way point of the first stanza Burns was starting to gain some confidence and moving forward well. During one attack Greg Lemin made his way into the box, but found himself impeded by Veljanovski. This meant a penalty for Burns.

Lemin dragged himself up and moved in to take the kick after the normal antics from the keeper. He sent the ball right, but Jovanco Naumovski went the same way and was able to parry it away from danger. This was most likely the turning point of the game.

For Queanbeyan, it was just a minor hiccup. A few minutes later they were back on attack. Roberts and Veljanovski played a nice one-two freeing the former for a chance. McDermott smothered the shot and Karl Varley then cleared the ball off the line.

Roberts, a key player to Queanbeyan's offence was then substituted by John Glubovic. Little did he know what sort of afternoon he was in for.

The respite was not long. With 34 minutes gone on the clock, Stojceski sent in a low cross from the right. It beat a defender and was missed completely by the keeper. Glubovic was on hand for the tap in. In his exuberance, he ripped off his shirt and was thus cautioned.

Towards the end of the half, Burns tried to get back into the match. Substitute Danny Hatley shot wide when the ball was not cleared properly by Queanbeyan. Then with only a few minutes to go Daniel Park put Varley through on goal. Before he could shoot Ilija Jordanoski pulled off a strong tackle to put the ball away for a corner.

Their last chance came after David Geremia was cautioned after a bad foul. The shot went straight at Naumovski and that was easy for him, the way he

was playing today. The break was a respite for the fans from the action as Queanbeyan continued to pile on the pressure. Geremia headed wide from a Pratezina cross and then Geremia sent in a cross to Veljanovski. His shot was well saved and when it fell back to Geremia, his volley went across goal.

Eight minutes into the half, Geremia then pulled off a bad late tackle and was shown his second yellow card and had to leave the field. This somewhat changed the tactics of Queanbeyan as they now pulled players back behind the ball and hoped for a counter attack.

More often than not Burns were at fault for missed passes that allowed the quick attack by Queanbeyan. What shots Burns had were all from distance and either went wide were easily handled by Naumovski.

Stojceski and Veljanovski combined well in one of these breaks, but the latter shot just wide. Pratezina was a workhorse at this time. He was back defending winning the ball and then up supporting his attackers whenever possible.

Just outside his own box Pratezina stole the ball from a Burns attacker and raced forward before sending Golubovic free to be one-one-one with McDermott. His shot went straight at the keeper, with most of the goal to aim for. Pratezina was so upset he went up to remonstrate with his teammate for wasting such a good chance.

Then with 28 minutes gone in the half Tim Skinner was sent from the field for an elbow to Golubovic after a minor skirmish when both went in for a 50-50 challenge.

This returned the balance of the game towards Queanbeyan who were already playing with what looked to be a two man advantage. Two minutes after the send-off Pratezina won another ball in defence and sent Veljanovski towards goal in a three on two. He found Gjorgievski who planted the ball past McDermott giving him no chance.

Burns had one more chance to gain a goal for the afternoon. A Scott Hayes cross found Park, but his strong header was well saved by Naumovski. Queanbeyan continued to press and chances by Jordanoski and Pratezina didn't reap rewards.

New coach for Queanbeyan, Martin Albrighton was pleased and said "this was the best game they ever played. We put it together as a team."

"Today we played without two of our better players in Cosmos teammates Danny Burt and Nick Purdue. We played with ten men and were still able to convert", Albrighton said. He also believed Pratezina and 14 year

old Vlatko Tomeski were stand-outs.

Burns coach Steve Bryant blamed himself. "I picked the wrong team." But he still wasn't happy with those who were out there. "You can't coach some of the things out there. We need consistency; up one minute, down another."

Bels overcome Students By Nick Guoth

They say one goal is enough for a win and for Belconnen United this was the case in their victory over University of Canberra.

In the corresponding match earlier in the season, the two teams fought out a 2-2 draw, so Bels were wary of what the students could do.

The scoreline, as has been the case with a number of their matches, didn't reflect the domination Belconnen had during this game. Yet, Uni also had some good opportunities to grab a share of the points.

The only goal of the game came from Aaron Fuller. He unleashed a strike from 25m out that was just high enough to get over Chris Freeman. The ball hit the crossbar and dropped over the line enough to convince the officials that it had gone in.

Belconnen coach Lino Fiorese said later "it was a good performance. We knocked the ball around."

"We created a lot of good goalscoring opportunities and played very well in the first half."

For Uni, Rod Lynes was somewhat disheartened. "We could have drawn, but didn't deserve to." Rod singled out youngster Peter Curwan and goalkeeper Freeman as having good games.

Juventus finally win By Nick Guoth

Gungahlin Juventus was on one of their worst losing streaks in their history and to their credit fought hard at Jamison Oval to draw 2-2 with the well fancied Weston Creek Royals.

Even though they had a 2-0 lead at the break, the result is a breath of relief for the fans and the coach, Frank Cachia. "We've arrested the slide. Now we are back on track."

The first goal came from an excellent run by Tony Rinaudo down the right hand side. He beat a few players before sending a cross for Niall Staddart to finish off.

Then Weston were caught on the break and George Cattinach punished them when he put away a one-on-one with the keeper.

A few words were said at the break in the Weston dressing room. They came out firing on all cylinders and tied up the game in the first 15 minutes.

Martin Lazzari sent in a strong free kick that came back off the crossbar. Juventus made valiant attempts to clear the ball,

but the only one to get a true touch was Adrian Parragali who knocked it home.

Then a rather controversial goal where Steve Lazzari was suspect of using his hand to control the ball. It was not seen by the officials and he carried on to drill the ball into the net.

Steve Lazzari had a great chance to gain all three points for his side, but a great save by the keeper denied any change of score.

Suns edge towards title By Nick Guoth

The Capital City Suns returned to their winning ways and moved one step closer to the 1999 Premiership title with a 3-0 win over Canberra Olympic.

They now have a two point gap at the top of the table with only two more rounds to go, putting pressure on the chasers.

For Olympic, this may have been the last chance. They are now three points behind fourth place and need not only to win their final two matches, but also hope that other results go their way.

The first half was very even, but it was a game that needed a goal. One minute from the break Luka Ujdur sent a pass to Tony Lemezina. He shimmied to put off the defence before placing the ball past Dmitri Stamaros.

Exactly half-way through the second period the Suns struck again. Lemezina provided the spade work this time with a run down the right wing. He brought the ball in before sending a perfect cross for his striking partner Pat Phommaseisy to rise and send a bullet header that gave the keeper no chance.

Seven minutes later it was all over for Olympic. Ujdur passed to Phommaseisy and his strong shot was too hot for Stamaros to handle. The ball popped out of his hands and towards goal. Takis Arvanitis made a brave attempt to scoop it away but it was too late and all he could do was help it into the net.

The Suns kept up the pressure and could have scored more. A Shane Lyons cross was just out of the reach of both Lemezina and Stan Blazevski. Olympic were reduced to desperate defending.

Assistant coach Ian Shaw said "It was an excellent result. The team knitted very well."

In the ACT Women's soccer the Act Academy of Sport have secured the minor premiership title in first division after beating Weston Creek 4-0 at Dickson on Saturday.

Belconnen, who needed to win and hope that ACT Academy lost to win the minor premiership, did their part by defeating Canberra City 2-1, while Tuggeranong and Burns-Brindabella played out a 1-1 draw.

Premier League Division 1:			
Canberra Deakin v Monaro	1-1	3-2	4-0
Belconnen United v Uni of Canberra	1-0	3-3	2-2
Queanbeyan City Lions v Burns Club	3-0	0-6	1-2
Capital City Suns v Canberra Olympic	3-0	4-1	6-0
Gungahlin Juventus v Weston Creek	2-2	0-1	5-3

Premier League Division 2:			
First Grade ADFA 2 ANU 1	Be west Foxes 0	O'Connor Knights 3	
Tuggeranong 3	Sabres FC 0	White Eagles 1	Cooma 1
Res Grade ADFA 2 ANU 1	Be west Foxes 0	O'Connor Knights 1	
Tuggeranong 4	Sabres FC 1	White Eagles 11	Cooma 0

Premier League Table:										
	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts		
Capital City Suns	16	11	2	3	2	49	20	37		
Monaro	16	9	4	3	4	46	23	35		
Belconnen United	16	10	2	4	2	42	16	34		
Weston Creek Royals	16	7	6	3	6	35	23	33		
Canberra Deakin	16	9	3	4	1	33	19	32		
Canberra Olympic	16	9	2	5	1	32	18	30		
Gungahlin Juventus	16	6	2	8	2	27	33	22		
Uni of Canberra	16	3	1	12	1	24	44	11		
Burns Club	16	3	0	13	0	14	59	9		
Queanbeyan City Lions	16	2	0	14	0	23	71	6		

Division 1- Next Round:

Sunday August 22nd - 2pm
Monaro v Belconnen United @ Riverside Stadium
Canberra Deakin v Burns Club @ Deakin Oval
Weston Creek Royals v Queanbeyan City Lions @ Woden Park
Canberra Olympic v Gungahlin Juventus @ Majura Oval
University of Canberra v Capital City Suns @ University of Canberra

VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE

Green Gully Cavaliers are finally the toast of Victorian soccer once again after winning their first state title since returning from the national league in 1987.

Although Green Gully dominated the State League before entering the NSL, winning three successive titles in 1981-83, all their efforts have come to nothing under both the finals and first-past-the-post systems.

As talk of a national second division becomes louder, it is expected that Green Gully will be part of the proposed set-up for the 2000-01 season and this championship is just another reminder that the Cavaliers remain one of the great hopes of Melbourne soccer.

Although extensive rebuilding work would be required to join the top league, the facilities remain at the sharp end of the Victorian Premier League and the club seems ideally placed to build on this latest triumph.

The Cavs, 5-1 home win over St Albans, capped a fine season punctuated by just two losses and finishing with an unbeaten run of sixteen matches. The result made the other key match of the round, Bulleen v Port Melbourne, academic, but Port's failure to produce a win at the Veneto Club should not detract from another fine season from the Sharks. Plunged into turmoil before a ball was kicked with the departure of coach Alan Davidson, Port have responded admirably under coach Peter Tsolakakis but will rue a poor run home which produced just ten points from their last seven matches.

At the other end of the table, the final relegation place was decided when Altona

East and Springvale White Eagles fought out a 1-1 draw.

After Altona East had picked up all three points against Westvale last Monday night, a draw against the Eagles would have been enough for survival. Springvale led at half time but a Peter Groidis goal ensured Altona East will be playing Premier League soccer again next season.

So Springvale will join South Dandenong, Westvale and Sunshine Georgies in Division One next season, to be replaced by two teams from Division One in a revamped twelve team Premier League. The two promoted teams look increasingly likely to be Heidelberg and Oakleigh who are now seven points clear of third placed Lalor.

The Premier League's inaugural Under 21 competition was won in dramatic fashion by St Albans who needed just a draw in their final match at Green Gully, who in turn needed a win to pinch the title from St Albans.

With fifteen minutes on the clock Green Gully were 2-1 ahead, but the Saints scored twice in quick succession before surviving a late equaliser.

As we go to press the Premier League's top goalscorer award seems likely to go to Port Melbourne's Peter Kakos, with VSF records indicating 23 goals.

But various independent records suggest Kakos may have a total of 22, which could be significant with Harry Karl and Juan Nilo also scoring 22 goals this season, with Nilo scoring four goals in the final round against bottom team Sunshine.

Victorian Premier League Round-up - Round 26

Played Sunday August 15

Green Gully	5 Svigos, Papadopoulos, Donev, Genovesi, Necesk
St Albans	1 Karl
Altona East	1 Groidis
Springvale White Eagles	1 M Mihajlovic
Bulleen Inter Kings	2 Rusmir, Gnjdic
Port Melbourne Sharks	2 Tsaltas (2)
Preston Lions	3 Filipovski, Stojcevski, Ugunovski
Westvale	0
Bentleigh Greens	6 Mladenovic, Papettas, Nilo (4)
Sunshine Georgies	0
Fawkner	2 Collins, Biskic
Altona Magic	1 S Markovski
South Dandenong	0
Melbourne Raiders	2 Stifkas, Salievski

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	26	16	8	2	58	25	56
Port Melbourne Sharks	26	16	5	5	59	30	53
Preston Lions	26	15	2	9	50	37	47
Fawkner Blues	26	14	4	8	48	33	46
Bentleigh Greens	26	13	6	7	67	31	45
Bulleen Inter Kings	26	10	8	8	40	35	38
St Albans Saints	26	11	3	12	44	41	36
Melbourne Raiders	26	10	6	10	36	44	36
Altona East Phoenix	26	8	7	11	29	38	31
Altona Magic	26	8	7	11	36	47	31
Springvale White Eagles	26	8	6	12	37	40	30
South Dandenong	26	6	6	14	41	62	24
Westvale	26	4	7	15	31	69	19
Sunshine Georgies	26	4	3	19	26	70	15

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

The two top teams in the ICU Premier League table have streaked away from the nearest challengers and look to have the title between themselves.

Northern United, the leaders, had a strong 3-1 victory over mid table Wollongong White Eagles while their challengers, Port Kembla, had an even more resounding 4-0 win, albeit against last placed team Fernhill.

After Round 19, the leaders are still only two points ahead of Port Kembla and the race for the premiership looks like going right down to the wire.

The third placed team Bulli had a setback over the weekend when they could only manage a 0-0 draw with Lysaghts. This result leaves them seven points behind second placed Port Kembla and nine points behind the leaders. They seem to be too far back to be contenders for the premiership and will be concentrating more on keeping the fourth placed team, Coniston, at bay in the race for the third spot.

Coniston had an easy win against the second last placed Woonona to the tune of four goals to nil and it is now only one point away from Bulli.

A four goals to nil result was a popular score this week with Cringila Lions being the third team to achieve the score, in their case against Shoalhaven City.

The pick of the Round 20 matches are the clashes between Wollongong Olympic and Coniston Lions and the game between White Eagles and Bulli. Both visitors need to aim for victory in order to maintain the spots.

ICU Premier League Standings

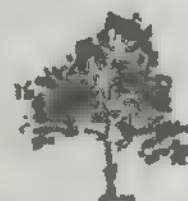
Northern United	45
Port Kembla	43
Bulli	36
Coniston	35
Kemblawarra	31
W. Olympic	25
Cringila Lions	22
White Eagles	21
Lysaghts	21
Shoalhaven City	16
Woonona	16
Fernhill	4

ICU Premier League Results - Rd 19

Kemblawarra	1 W. Olympic	1
Coniston	4 Woonona	0
Northern United	3 White Eagles	1
Bulli	0 Lysaghts	0
Cringila Lions	4 Shoalhaven	0
Port Kembla	4 Fernhill	0

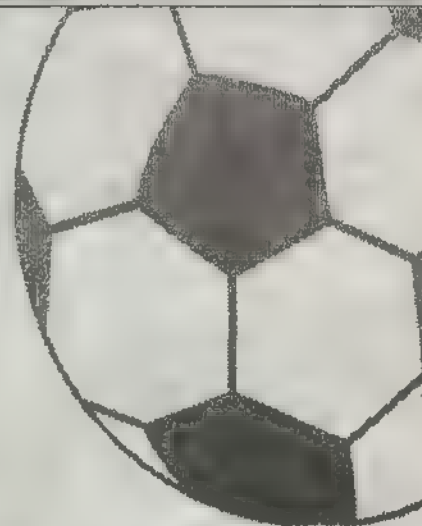
ICU First Division Results - Rd 19

Picton Rangers	2 Bellambi	1
Dapto	1 Illawarra U	0
Terrawanna	3 University	1
Shellharbour C	3 Helensburgh	3
West Suburbs	6 Albion Park	0
Barbs	4 Balgownie R	3



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PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 20

Fernhill v Kemblawarra - Towradgi Park

Wollongong Olympic v Coniston Lions - No 2 Brandon Prk

Woonona v Northern United - Ocean Park

White Eagles v Bulli v - Brandon Park

Lysaghts v Shoalhaven City - Recreation Centre

Port Kembla v Cringila Lions - Wetherall Park

INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

Ram

BILL TURNER CUP



TWO GREAT DAYS

Supporters of the Bill Turner Cup were treated to two great days of football at Perry Park, Brisbane on August 7 and 8

Organised by the Queensland Senior Manager, Mr David Donaldson everything was conducted in a smooth and efficient manner from start to finish

The playing pitch of Perry Park was in top condition which certainly aided the players in exhibiting their football skills to the maximum.

The new General Manager of the Queensland Soccer Federation, Mr Steve Wilson, left no stone unturned in having things ready for the Saturday night semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS

Brisbane Grammar School and Harristown State High played an entertaining fixture to kick off proceedings on Saturday night.

While most experts saw this game as an easy passage to the final for Grammar the score-line did not reflect that at full time, with only a 2-0 result to the Grammar boys

For Grammar, Simon Gunn, Ben Stevens and Robbie McLachlan played well while for Harristown, Ben Phillips, Troy Stubbs and Robert Behrends showed real class

Brisbane Grammar 2 (Daniel Danielli, Robbie McLachlan) defeated Harristown State High, Toowoomba 0
Referee: Adam Jones.

The second semi-final had everybody buzzing in anticipation. The question on most lips was; 'Could St Augustines College, after their long bus trip from

Cairns, make a go of it against the Gold Coast sports high school, Palm Beach-Currumbin?'

Based on Mr Tom Booy's coaching program the lads from Cairns frustrated the dynamic Gold Coast champions' repeated attacks from every angle.

The Palm Beach-Currumbin lads were following instructions from coach, Sam Wiseman, to the letter but found it difficult to fully penetrate the rock solid defence from the Northerners

In fact, it was St Augustines who opened the scoring when Matthew Baldizzoni slipped through the defence to score a great goal and allow the saints to go one up.

Almost seconds after the start of the second half Mark Conrad equalised for Palm Beach-Currumbin. The Gold Coast team started the second half in a furious manner which did not allow the Cairns lads a chance to settle and before they knew it, the scores were level.

And so it stayed until referee Jeremy McShinning sent the teams into 'Golden Goal' time. The crowd was on its collective feet when, after just seven minutes, Matthew Baldizzoni again broke loose to put the ball beyond the reach of the advancing keeper, Ben Markham. The crowd in the stands erupted in salute of the winning goal.

St Augustines, Cairns 2 (Matthew Baldizzoni 2) defeated Palm Beach-Currumbin 1 (Mark Conrad)
Referee: Jeremy McSkimming



St Augustines Football Team

SUNDAY DECIDERS:

Sunday saw a deflated Palm Beach-Currumbin showed how technically gifted a side they are to down the brave lads from Harristown, 3-0 to clinch the third spot in the Queensland section of the Bill Turner Cup. In fact, Harristown only went in one goal down at half time but they couldn't mount a concentrated resistance in the second half to succumb rather easily to two second half goals. Over many years Harristown has been a breeding ground for top class Rugby League players but coach Bevan Chantler told Inside Soccer that these days, as in many other previously Rugby League dominant schools, soccer is on a roll and a big future is expected.

The Gold Coast boys added two more goals in the second spell with Shane Robinson standing out as the most impressive player.

Palm Beach-Currumbin 3 (Clint Hilton 2, Shane Robinson) defeated Harristown 0
Referee: Vasily Oreopoulos.

before Jurjen Westera notched a third to make the Cairns champions the winners of the Queensland section of the Bill Turner Cup.

Luke Brown, the St Augustines goal keeper, who won the "Man of the Match" award, is a player of enormous potential and is destined for higher honours in his football career.

Shane Robinson, the scorer of a goal for Palm Beach-Currumbin in the play off for the third spot, is another player of the future and one to keep an eye on.

St Augustine will now travel to Newcastle for the National Final series.

St Augustines 3 (Brady Ewen-Smith 2, Jurjen Westera) defeated Brisbane Grammar 0
Referee: Jim Bellas.

Steve Wilson presented the Queensland Bill Turner Cup Shield to Ben Stevens of Brisbane Grammar, while the President of the Queensland Soccer Federation, Wallace Dann, made the Queensland Bill Turner Cup presentation to St Augustines.

Bill Turner, who was present for all the Queensland final series, enjoyed making the medals presentation to the excellent referees appointed to control the matches. They were Jim Bellas, Vasily Oreopoulos and Mick Kelly who controlled all the matches extremely well

FINAL

Once again St Augustines started as underdogs for the big Queensland final against Brisbane Grammar. However, that magnificent cover defence, so prominent in the semi-final, refused to allow Grammar to penetrate and a clever goal from Brady Ewen-Smith gave St Augustines a 1-0 lead at the break.

In the second half Ewen-Smith scored again



Belmont Christian College

BILL TURNER CUP Results:
Rd 5 Gunnedah 1 bt Kadina 0, St Peters Maitland 4 bt Newcastle 1.
Rd 6 Endeavour 3 bt Warners Bay 2, Pennant Hills 2 bt Pat Bros Blacktown 1, Westfields 1-3 bt Christian Bros Lewisham 1-1, Daramalan 5 bt Orange 3, Figtree 1 bt Notre Dame Shepparton 0, St Augustines Cairns 2 bt Palm Beach-Currumbin 1, Brisbane Grammar 2 bt Harristown 0.

DAVIDS INELIGIBLE HUCKERBY FOR HASSELBANK

Manchester United's transfer plans were in disarray after the news that Juventus star Edgar Davids cannot play for them in the Champions League this season.

Boss Sir Alex Ferguson put the Dutch midfielder at the top of his hit list, especially with pay rebel Roy Keane still undecided over whether or not to stay.

However, United have discovered that Davids could not appear for them in Europe the season because he has already figured in the InterToto Cup.

Juve's decision to use Davids has stunned the Old Trafford management - and it has also wiped millions off his transfer value. Davids fits United's bill perfectly. He impressed Ferguson when the sides met last season and

could also be brought into the wage structure that is forcing out Keane.

The Juve star even expressed an interest in joining United, but that plan was shattered by the Italian giants' odd decision to pick him in their back-door bid for a place in the UEFA Cup.

UEFA confirmed that Davids is ineligible for United's Champions League campaign. And a spokesman said: "Anyone playing in the final two rounds of the InterToto Cup cannot appear for another club in Europe in the same season."

Davids was surprisingly selected for the semi-final game with Russian side Rostov last week, playing in the second leg when the tie was virtually over after a 5-1 win in the first game.

He was forced to miss the InterToto Cup final first leg against French club Rennes while he awaited a ruling from the Italian Olympic Committee over his use of eye-drops which contain a banned diuretic.

In looking for alternatives Ferguson is close to completing a deal with Atletico Madrid for South African midfielder Quinton Fortune.

Fortune impressed the United boss when he had trials at the club two weeks ago.

Leeds boss David O'Leary still has £12million available for a new striker despite the £4million capture of Darren Huckerby from Coventry.

Huckerby, subject to a medical at Elland Road, will sign a five-year contract at Elland Road and Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale hailed the arrival of a striker blessed with "electric pace and devastating finishing."

But Ridsdale was quick to stress that the Huckerby deal has not eaten into the £12million from the sale of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to Atletico Madrid.

"This signing has got nothing to do with Jimmy leaving," insisted Ridsdale. "We will still be in the market for a replacement for Jimmy."

"It does not stop our quest for bringing in a strong centre-forward. This is just an addition to the squad that David and I have felt for some time would be exciting if we could pull it off."

"The £12million has not been affected. It's untouched and it's available for David to spend."

"David is very clear about probably a couple of potential targets."

"But we're at that stage of our development where unfortunately they're of such obvious value and capability that

they're not necessarily going to be easily available."

"We'll spend that money on players that will take us to the next step but we're in no hurry."

Huckerby's cost will rise to £5.5million relating to add-ons, but Ridsdale reckons that the 23-year-old former England Under-21 and B international will fit in well at Elland Road.

His arrival takes O'Leary's spending to just over £19million this summer and the majority of that has gone on young English talent.

"Darren fits the bill," said Ridsdale. "He's 23, he's English. He's signing a five-year contract so he fits into the category of us trying to build for the long term."

"We're paying £4million but we have agreed add-ons which can add just over £1million to that, subject to his appearances and our performances."

"It's not that long ago that he scored a hat-trick against us at Elland Road. He showed his electric pace and devastating finishing then and we're adding those qualities to our squad."

"I'm clearly delighted with this signing because Darren is someone we have been tracking for some time."

"When David took over last October he said



he wanted two players and they were David Batty and Darren Huckerby," said Ridsdale.

"At the time we were being quoted double what we've paid now (for Huckerby). We decided to be patient."

"We will have to wait and see whether Darren fits into our squad but we are obviously adding to it with a quality striker who has proved himself against us and top opposition in the past."

Ridsdale also revealed that Leeds have yet to receive payment for Hasselbaink from Atletico Madrid.

"The fact is we haven't got it (£12million) yet and I did say to

Atletico Madrid that if we don't get it soon we might play him (Hasselbaink) again. I think that galvanised them into action."

The Huckerby deal represents good business for Coventry, who signed him from Newcastle for just £1million in November 1996, despite just one league appearance for the Magpies following a switch from Lincoln.

City boss Gordon Strachan, who revealed that everybody is for sale at the club if the price is right, now faces a frontline problem of his own, with only Noel Whelan and Australian John Aloisi available as striking options.

GULLIT CHARGED

Newcastle manager Ruud Gullit has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for "alleged comments made to referee Uriah Rennie" after last week's game against Aston Villa.

Gullit saw Magpies' captain Alan Shearer sent off for two bookable offences and was forcibly held back from remonstrating with the Sheffield match official by counterpart John Gregory.

The Newcastle boss now has 14 days to appeal.

The charge was confirmed by the FA who received Rennie's match report, which mentioned both Gullit and Gregory.

"Ruud Gullit has been charged with misconduct for alleged comments made to Uriah Rennie at the end of last week's game," FA spokesman Steve Double said. "He has 14 days to appeal."

But Double added that the investigation into Villa boss Gregory, who was also men-



tioned by Rennie in his report, was still continuing.

"Further investigation into that is going on," Double said.

Gullit was incensed by Rennie's decision to dismiss the England captain for 'persistent misconduct' in the second half of the game.

But Shearer and nearby Villa players were bemused by the yellow card after the clash with Colin Calderwood.

Shearer had appealed for the referee to re-consider his decision after watching video evidence, but referee Rennie declined.

FERGUSON HOPES ON KEANE

Sir Alex Ferguson has admitted to being "very hopeful" that Roy Keane will stay at Manchester United.

The club's skipper is set to delay a decision on his future.

That move combined with United manager Ferguson's confidence now points to the Republic of Ireland international agreeing to stay at Old Trafford.

"I am very hopeful," said Ferguson. "I think Roy knows the value of the club and he loves playing for Manchester United."

"That's a strong set of cards to hold in your hand, and you add all these things up, he's captain of the club and having a terrific spell."

"But he is undecided about a lot of things and I think quite rightly he's taking his time with it - you shouldn't rush into these things anyway."

But hopefully he'll stay," Ferguson added.

Keane's lawyer and adviser, Michael Kennedy said "Roy Keane is considering his position

and he will make a decision in the near future."

Keane must be tempted to stick with his current deal and leave next summer on a highly lucrative free transfer, when his current contract expires.

But United have reportedly made a fresh £12million five year contract offer to Keane which, if true, could explain why he may need more time if he does decide to go. Juventus are making the early running in the race for his signature and the Italian club's general manager Luciano Moggi has already spoken to Kennedy.

Keane would leave a huge hole at United and Denis Irwin claims it would be impossible to replace him.

Irwin was speaking for all of the United players when he appealed to Keane to stay at Old Trafford, although he knows the 26-year-old must put his own interests first.

"We all want Roy to stay and we know what a big player he is for the club," he said.

"If he did leave he would be impossible to replace. I think everybody knows that."

"It would be a terrible loss if he did go, but hopefully he will stay. It's down to him and it's a per-

sonal decision for him and his family."

"You don't play football for a long time and you've got to look after your family and secure their future."

Irwin admits it is hard to contemplate that Keane might go after all the success he has enjoyed with United.

"You never expect people to go and leave a club like this," he said.

"We've won quite a few trophies over the years since Roy has been here and you don't really expect people to go."

"But as I said, we all hope he will stay."

Lee Hodgkiss, spokesman for the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association (IMUSA), fears the worst.

"The gut feeling among a lot of fans is that it's looking more and more pessimistic," he said.

Hodgkiss claims the fans are targeting club chairman Edwards because they feel he has not done enough to persuade Keane to stay.

"If Alex Ferguson wants Roy Keane to stay and Roy Keane wants 40 grand a week, then as far as we are concerned they should give it to him," he said.

RANGERS IN WITH A CHANCE



Rangers have a fighting chance of making the group stages of the Champions' League thanks to their A team.

Australian defender Tony Vidmar and American midfielder Claudio Reyna got the goals that stunned the UEFA Cup holders.

Rangers gave a marvellously controlled performance in this third qualifying round game and will surely approach the second leg in two weeks with a degree of confidence.

Manager Dick Advocaat made two changes to the side that defeated Hearts 4-0.

Dutch midfielder Giovanni van Bronckhorst and Scotland star Neil McCann returned to the starting line-up after recovering from ankle and knee injuries respectively.

Jorg Albertz and Jonatan Johansson were relegated to the substitutes' bench.

Reyna, who scored twice against Hearts, passed a late fitness test on a calf injury and proved again tonight he is becoming a major player at Ibrox.

Parma who defeated the Scottish champions on their way to lifting the UEFA Cup last season were without a number of key players.

Marcio Amoroso, Hernan Crespo and Salio Lassissi were all sidelined through injury.

There were also doubts about the fitness of Diego Fuser and Mario Stanic with both players named as substitutes.

It was Parma's first competitive game of the season as the Italian season doesn't get underway until August 28 and they looked ring rusty.

The Scottish Treble winners should have taken the lead inside the first minute in front of a capacity 50,000 crowd.

Michael Mols, the £4million buy from Utrecht, released van Bronckhorst with a subtle touch.

He delivered a fine ball into the path of Rod Wallace, who had made a yard of space inside the box.

The Rangers striker's aim was true but unfortunately it wasn't nearly powerful enough to trouble a keeper of Gianluigi Buffon's quality.

The huge crowd groaned seeing a glorious chance spurned and Parma slowly began to make their mark.

Keeper Stefan Klos made a clean save from Paolo Vanoli's header then a close range effort from Marco Di Vaio drifted wide.

However the ambitious Serie A side were reduced to 10 men in the 26th minute when Fabio Cannavaro was sent off by Spanish referee Jose-Garcia Aranda.

He was dismissed after picking up his second yellow card, both offences being committed on the elusive Wallace.

Rangers, as expected, stepped up the pace and Reyna, playing an increasingly influential role, saw a shot spin off Buffon's legs to safety in the 31st minute.

But two minutes later they took the lead when McCann fed the ball out to Vidmar on the left. He cut inside and delivered a curling shot beyond the keeper, the ball taking a slight deflection.

Anxious Parma coach Alberto Malesani then made a tactical switch, bringing on defender Stefano Torrisi for midfielder Ariel Ortega.

Rangers, however, continued to look comfortable and almost added a second a minute before the break when Buffon did well to turn away another effort from Reyna.

Parma found them-

Rangers 2 Parma 0

selves under pressure at the re-start with Luigi Sartor clearing hastily after Wallace and McCann linked up.

Advocaat decided to shake things up after 55 minutes, bringing on Albertz for goal-hero Vidmar.

The Ibrox boss was obviously relying on the German midfielder to get forward and help deliver the second goal.

However it was the Italians who began to take control for a short spell in a bid to get a vital away goal.

Van Bronckhorst needed treatment after getting in a brave challenge on Di Vaio after a fine build up involving Johan Walem and Paolo Vanoli. Craig Moore then had to scramble the ball away after Klos spilled a shot from Vanoli.

Rangers rode the storm, only for Albertz to pick up a yellow card for apparently diving in the box following a challenge from Buffon.

Parma retaliated with Di Vaio deciding to go for goal, his shot drifting across the face of the box as Vanoli waited in vain for the cross.

Rangers skipper Lorenzo Amoroso then made his only mistake of the match in the 72nd minute. His attempted clearance went straight to French World Cup star Alain Boghossian but luckily for the home side Klos was equal to the task.

Rangers added a second goal two minutes later with a goal that had class written all over it.

Mols released Wallace and the former Leeds striker sprinted into the Parma penalty area. He picked out McCann, who cleverly chested the ball back into the path of Reyna, who buried the ball beyond Buffon.

Rangers: Klos, Porrini, Moore, Amoroso, Vidmar (Albertz 55), Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Mols, Wallace, Reyna, McCann

Goals: Vidmar 32, Reyna 76.

Parma: Buffon, Sartor, Baggio (Fuser 60), Ortega (Torrisi 37), Boghossian, Cannavaro, Di Vaio (Stanic 85), Thuram, Serena, Vanoli, Walem.

Sent Off: Cannavaro 26
Crowd: 49,263

CHELSEA IN LATE FLURRY

Chelsea 3 Skonto 1

There must be something about leaving it perilously late in vital Champions' League matches that masochistically appeals to English sides.

But even though they struck well before Manchester United had done in the Nou Camp, Chelsea still followed their domestic rivals' example in reaping the rewards of an incredible late flourish against Skonto Riga at Stamford Bridge.

Having frustratingly missed chance after chance as they struggled to break down a determined Latvian side reduced to 10 men before half-time, the Blues were reinvigorated by a double substitution made by boss Gianluca Viali.

The manager certainly raised a few eyebrows when he threw on Tore Andre Flo and Celestine Babayaro for Gianfranco Zola and Didier Deschamps.

However, shortly after their introduction, Babayaro gave the Blues the lead with just 14 minutes left and then - less than 90 seconds later - Poyet, who had moved infield in a tactical switch, doubled the advantage.

The final flourish was fittingly left to record signing Chris Sutton, who had laboured hard all evening before finally making up for his two misses against Sunderland the previous week-end by stinking his first goal for his new club.

The importance of the result in the first leg of this final Champions League qualifying tie should not be underestimated, even if the game was played in front of just 22,043 fans against one of the supposed minnows of European football.

For the prize on offer for the winners is entry into the group stages of the

Champions League, a guarantee of at least six more games and the prospect of many more, with a financial windfall of several million pounds in revenue.

Chelsea had waited 44 years for this night, having seen the Football Association block their entry into the European Cup in the inaugural year of the competition - and they were determined not to waste it.

Skonto, winners of their domestic title for the past seven years, were certainly no pushovers though, having knocked Aberdeen, Dynamo Minsk and Rapid Bucharest out of Europe in recent history.

And, in the middle of their own season, they threatened for long periods to ensure that Chelsea endured yet another frustrating European night at Stamford Bridge - just like last season against Helsingborgs, Copenhagen and Real Mallorca.

Openings came and went for the home side with abandon in the first-half, while keeper Aleksandrs Kolinko was in inspired form.

And Sutton's agonies in front of goal looked set to continue as he swivelled with his back to goal just three yards out to capitalise on Poyet's header only to miss the ball completely.

Sutton, who was linking play adeptly up front, was by no means the only guilty party though as Poyet headed and shot wide, Dennis Wise struck the post and the keeper fortuitously knocked Poyet's shot against the turf and over the bar.

Skonto, with just 50 or so fans cheering them on, themselves threatened on the break, with Imants Bleidelis finding himself unmarked at the far post and skimming the bar with his shot.

Then keeper Ed De Goey had to

save with his legs at the near post after Mihails Miholaps cut inside from the left wing on the overlap.

However, the complexion of the game changed after 33 minutes when Andrejs Tereskinas stupidly kicked Frank Leboeuf from behind as the players waited for a corner to arrive in the Skonto penalty area and was duly sent off.

The visitors understandably concentrated even more on holding on for a draw from then on and Chelsea's openings were largely restricted to half-chances until the double substitution.

Keeper Kolinko denied both

ing home

Chelsea had struck a decisive blow and the Champions League group stages now await them, barring an unlikely upset of seismic proportions in Riga.

Crucially, the Blues never gave up or panicked, even when it seemed as if it was just going to be one of those nights.

But remember that even United encountered some problems in making it through the qualifying stage last season against LKS Lodz - and look what happened to them.

Chelsea: De Goey, Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux,



Poyet and Dan Petrescu with stunning reaction saves but he could do nothing to keep out a firmly-struck shot from Babayaro into the far corner after Sutton had teed him up.

Relief soon turned to joy as Poyet struck again within two minutes of the restart and Chelsea were by now showing the rampant form they had displayed against Sunderland four days before.

Flo headed against the post from a cross by fellow replacement Bjarne Goldbaek yet it was Sutton who left his side with the comfort of a three-goal lead for the second leg in Latvia as he swivelled on a cross before shoot-

Petrescu (Goldbaek 76), Wise, Deschamps (Babayaro 66), Poyet, Sutton, Zola (Flo 66).

Booked: Sutton.

Goals: Babayaro 76, Poyet 77, Sutton 84.

Skonto Riga: Kolinko, Laizans, Silagadze, Zemlinsky, Tereskinas, Bleidelis, Astafjevs, Rekhviashvili, Rubins, Chaladze (Blagonabzdins 41), Miholaps (Menteshashvili 77).

Sent Off: Tereskinas (33).

Booked: Rekhviashvili, Miholaps

HAMMERS IN TROUBLE AGAINST METZ



A 12th minute goal from Louis Saha proved enough to give FC Metz a crucial away win at Upton Park, London in first leg of their UEFA Intertoto Cup Final with West Ham United FC.

The former Newcastle United FC striker silenced the crowd when he cleverly treated a superb crossfield ball from Danny Boffin with a superb loop over Rio Ferdinand and the despairing West Ham goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.

The Hammers were, however, given an excellent chance of turning the tide around in their favour when they were awarded a

penalty by Spanish referee Manuel Diaz Vega fifteen minutes into the second half as Paolo di Canio went down in the box under the challenge from Gregory Proment. Frank Lampard accepted the spot-kick responsibility, but Lionel Letizi guessed right and dived to divert the ball. The missed penalty summed up a poor night for the talented midfielder, who failed to fall into his usual playmaker role for the English side.

The Hammers had otherwise started brightly as John Moncur forced a good save from Letizi in the opening stages and the French goal only encouraged the hosts to step up a further gear only to find the Metz defence in a defiant mood.

Just before the break Moncur was again to be found in the centre of action as he cut inside from the left and pulled it back for Trevor Sinclair whose shot was charged down.

New signing Paolo Wanchope was also given a chance to get his name on the scoresheet, but the Costa Rican striker was unable to make contact with a Sinclair cross as the home side continued to press for an equaliser.

West Ham 0 Metz 1

In the second period, Scott Minto was only inches off the target after the Metz defence failed to clear Steve Lomas' long throw-in and Di Canio were desperately unlucky to see a 20-metre drive hit the woodwork.

In the end, Saha almost added another to his scoring record when his glancing header from Boffin's cross looped just wide of the far post, but despite his failure to double his tally, the Hammers face a tough test in a fortnight's time if they are to rescue their European aspirations.

West Ham: Hislop, Potts, Ferdinand, Minto, Lomas, Sinclair, Lampard, Foe, Moncur, Di Canio, Wanchope

Subs: Forrest, Cole, Carrick, Kitson, Angus, Keller, Wright.

FC Metz: Letizi, Pierre, Gaillot, Schemmel, Kastiendeuch, Bastien, Meyrieu, Proment, Gousse, Saha, Boffin

Subs: Biancarelli, Asuar, Rizzetto, Van Handenhoven, Toyas, Jestrovic, Marchal

CELTIC CRUISE AGAINST PART TIMERS

Welsh part-timers Cwmbran's tactics of narrowing the pitch failed to restrict Celtic's goals tally as John Barnes' side cruised to another resounding victory at Ninian Park.

Cwmbran manager Tony Willcox had reduced the pitch to its minimum width to make it feel more like the Cwmbran home this UEFA Cup first qualifying round tie was moved from - but his players were unable to limit a rampant Celtic who won at a canter.

Record signing Eyal Berkovic launched them on their way in the second minute with a stunning volley from distance to break his duck for the Parkhead club, following his £5.75million summer switch from West Ham.

Cwmbran had no answer to the waves of attacks which followed, with Olivier Tebily doubling the lead after 20 minutes with a close-range header as Celtic outlined their superior class in stylish fashion.

Henrik Larsson struck the first of two goals after 32 minutes as an 8,920 crowd, dominated by Celtic's travelling support, swiftly moved into party mood as they witnessed a mismatch between two teams of vastly contrasting resources.

Celtic refused to ease up after the interval, Mark Viduka notching a fourth ahead of Larsson completing his double just after the hour mark, with the Welsh given little option but to sit back and defend in numbers with the increasingly vain hope of keeping the score down.

They survived further losses until six minutes from time when substitute Harald Brattbakk seized onto a Berkovic pass to make Celtic's aggregate in three games under Barnes' control a remarkable 14 goals scored and none conceded.

Celtic were boosted by the return of Alan Stubbs in his first competitive game since undergoing surgery on a cancer-related illness, while Stephane Mahe also returned to cover the Johan

Cwmbran 0 Celtic 6

Mjallby and Tom Boyd suspensions.

Berkovic set up Larsson for a header just over the bar in the opening minute, before firing Celtic in front himself with a swerving half-volley from the edge of the area, over

only genuine error of the night.

The keeper fumbled a poor Lambert shot and Larsson was first to the ball from the rebound before squaring to Viduka who touched the ball in from close range.

The Australian international then returned the



Australian Mark Viduka continues his prolific goal scoring.

and above the grasp of keeper Pat O'Hagan and into the top corner.

Bobby Petta was denied by O'Hagan in Celtic's next attack, but the visitors did not have to wait long before demonstrating the gulf between the two teams, doubling their advantage with just 20 minutes gone after another fast, flowing movement.

Craig Burley picked out Viduka at the far post and his looping header was bundled over the line by Tebily as the home defence remained static.

O'Hagan half-stopped but could not prevent a Larsson header making it 3-0 in Celtic's favour just after the half-hour mark, following another precise delivery from Israeli international Berkovic, who was impressing with every turn.

Regi Blinker replaced Petta at the interval, but it saw no change in Celtic's level of dominance and they moved four ahead after 52 minutes courtesy of the beleaguered O'Hagan's

favour to provide Larsson with pass that enabled him to stroke the ball under O'Hagan's body for a fifth Celtic strike as Cwmbran looked increasingly short of ideas.

They clung on to respectability as best they could but with six minutes remaining Brattbakk made it 6-0 to mean the second leg of this tie in a fortnight's time will be a mere formality, if not a non-event.

Cwmbran: O'Hagan, Willis, John, Blackie, O'Brien, Dyson, Wigley (Aizlewood 72), Moore, Evans, Graham, Summers (Hughes 84), Aizlewood (Thomas 59).

Celtic: Gould, Stubbs, Larsson (Johnson 80), Burley, Berkovic, Lambert, Petta (Blinker 45), Tebily, Riset, Viduka (Brattbakk 80), Mahe.

Goals: Berkovic 2, Tebily 20, Larsson 32, Viduka 52, Larsson 61, Brattbakk 84.

STUBBS' EMOTIONAL RETURN

Emotional Alan Stubbs dedicated his Celtic return to those whose support and guidance made it possible after playing his part as Cwmbran were overwhelmed at Ninian Park.

In his first competitive start since undergoing surgery for a cancer-related illness, Stubbs was barely troubled in a convincing six-goal triumph, which proved an absurd mismatch from the outset.

After Eyal Berkovic and Olivier Tebily both broke their Celtic ducks to put the visitors ahead, it was a stroll as Henrik Larsson toasted a double, while Mark Viduka and Harald Brattbakk sealed the rout.

For Stubbs, however, the night was a more significant one than might normally have been the case, as it marked his return to making football instead of news headlines as he managed an assured 90 minutes against the Welsh part-timers.

He said: "It was good for me just to get a game at the moment.

"I feel fine and I have

come through it well, which I hoped I would as I've been working hard to catch up my fitness.

"We will have to wait and see whether I'll play again at the weekend as I don't pick the team.

"But admit it's good just to be talking about football again because it has been a difficult time for me with what has happened in recent weeks.

"Having said that with all the help and advice I have had the time really does seem to have flown by and it's been quite easy in a way for me to just get on with it and keep working day by day.

"It's a hard job when you have to focus your mind when you're just thinking about getting through a training session, but I feel happy now and it's just up to the manager to decide whether I have the right level of match fitness to be involved again against Dundee United on Sunday."

Stubbs received warm backing throughout at Ninian Park from the huge Celtic travelling contingent, a fact which was not lost on the centre-half whose name was chanted



Stubbs - back from cancer

for much of the UEFA Cup first qualifying round tie.

He acknowledged: "I knew the fans would be right behind me because they have given me superb support right from the start with all their cards - and that was a real boost to me when I needed it."

"I have put on record now that I am staying at Celtic and at the moment it is just important for me to get back playing again on a regular basis, rather than worrying about any contract discussions."

Cwmbran player-coach Mark Aizlewood paid tribute to Celtic's emphatic victory and admitted the prospect of travelling to Parkhead in a fortnight for another dose of punishment fills him with dread.

In other UEFA Cup qualifiers most prominent teams are well on the way to progressing to the next round.

Among the more notable victory is that of Belgium's Anderlecht who are assured of moving through to the next round after a resounding 6-1 win at home to little known club Leifur.

Both Croatia's Hajduk Split and Poland's Legia

Warszawa recorded comprehensive 5-0 wins with Legia's victory achieved away to Macedonia's Vardar Skopje.

Former Champions Cup winners Crvena Zvezda (Red Star) of Yugoslavia faced Neftchi and came away with a 2-3 victory against their opponents. The second leg game in Belgrade should hold no problems for the Yugoslavs and they should

comfortably qualify for the next stage.

Whilst fellow Scottish club Celtic cruised against their Welsh opponents St Johnstone and Kilmarnock did not have it as easy in their matches.

St Johnstone achieved a 1-1 away draw to Vaasa while Kilmarnock will have a harder task in the second leg after going down 1-0 away to Iceland's Reykjavik.

HAJDUK COAST HOME AGAINST AMATEURS

Hajduk Split made their first home appearance in European competition this season with a game in Varazdin due to the ban on appearing on their home turf in Split after last year's crowd disturbance in the game against Fiorentina.

Against this type of opponent, Luxembourg's Dudelange, this wasn't a major setback.

Against a team whose main goal was to prevent an avalanche of goals Hajduk set about its attacking raids in not too convincing a fashion.

Fortunately for the 'home' team the first goal fell as early as the fifth minute when a panic clearance by Alija hit the back of his colleague Galli and landed at the feet of Bulat who had no trouble in putting the ball away.

The second goal was

scored in the 24th minute when a Musa free kick floated over the defence onto the head of Baturnna who put it away into the opposite corner.

The only time that the visitors bothered the Hajduk 'keeper, Stipe Pletikosa, was when Morgante shot from within the penalty box but it went straight to the well positioned 'keeper.

Hajduk didn't play brilliantly in the first half but created another couple of chances before the break but neither Matic nor Zvonimir Deranja was able to convert good opportunities to add to the tally.

In the second half the Hajduk coach, Ivan Katalinic, brought on young Ivan Leko instead of the more defensive Matic to provide the team with a more attacking formation.

Leko was quickly in the thick of the action when, in the 57th minute, his well flighted free kick reached the head of Grdic who was allowed time and space to pick his spot for a 3-0 lead.

In the 65th minute Deranja should have added to the goal tally when he beat the Dudelange keeper but his final shot towards an empty net was deflected

Hajduk 5 Dudelange 0

by a desperate defender. Leko was put into a similar situation in the 68th minute but he made no mistake as he scored to increase the margin to 4-0.

The visitors had a couple of opportunities in the 82nd and 90 minute but on both occasions Pletikosa was equal to the task.

Well into injury time Deranja finally was able to get onto the scoresheet to post the final score of 5-0.

The best players for Hajduk were Musa, Deranja and Pralija while Australian international Josip Skoko had a useful, if uninspiring, game in Hajduk's midfield.

HAJDUK: Pletikosa, Duzelov, Pralija, Grdic, Musa (Miladin 72), Baturnna (Bilic 60), Deranja, Jazic, Skoko, Matic (Leko 46), Bulat

Goals: Bulat (5), Baturnna (24), Grdic (58), Leko (68), Deranja (90)

DUDELANGE: Koch, Galli, Kabba 5, Ubaldini, Gomes, Funck, Morgante (Ngnindon 77), Alija (Kabongo 53), Balenga, Ganser (Barnabo 67), Cangini.



Josip Skoko

YUGOSLAVS PLAY POLITICS

Yugoslavian government and opposition forces have accused each other of using tomorrow night's highly-charged European Championship soccer qualifier with Croatia for political purposes.

The opposition Democratic Party (DS), led by Zoran Djindjic, claimed the Yugoslav Sports Ministry had bought half of the 55,000 tickets put on sale to distribute to sympathisers of the country's president Slobodan Milosevic.

A DS statement explained: "Fearing that the fans might whistle and boo Slobodan Milosevic, the SPS and JUL (the parties of Milosevic and his wife Mira Markovic) have decided to buy half the tickets to cram the stadium with their supporters."

But official news agency Tanjug rejected these claims.

"In an address to the nation the DS states in a tragic tone that the majority of tickets for the Yugoslavia v Croatia match were bought by the SPS and JUL.

"Even if that was the case, it signifies only that the supporters in the ranks of the governing coalition are true supporters that have taken the trouble to watch this sports event live," said the agency.

The opposition Alliance for Change (SZP), which includes the DS, "had the intention, by exerting pressure on the regime, of using this match for political propaganda," Tanjug continued.

Independent newspaper Danas claims the game has been sold out since Monday.

Milosevic was booed at several games in Belgrade and other towns in Serbia recently.

Tomorrow's match is the highest profile sporting encounter between the two nations since Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia - a move which was resisted militarily by the Federation in a forerunner to later Balkan conflicts in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo.

In the meantime Croatia has announced its squads for the vital games for both the full national and the Under 21 team.

National Team: Drazen Ladic (Croatia Zagreb), Marjan Mrmic (Varteks Varazdin), Robert Kovac (Bayer Leverkusen), Zvonimir Soldo (VfB Stuttgart), Dario Simic (Inter Milan), Mario Cvitanovic (Croatia Zagreb), Igor Tudor (Juventus), Goran Juric (Croatia Zagreb), Robert Jami (Real Madrid), Igor Stimac (Derby County), Mario Stanic (Parma), Zvonimir Boban (AC Milan), Krunoslav Jurcic (Croatia Zagreb), Aljosa Asanovic (Panathinaikos), Igor Biscan (Croatia Zagreb), Silvio Maric (Newcastle United), Davor Suker (Arsenal), Alen Boksic (Lazio), Milan Rapaic (Perugia), Goran Vlaovic (Valencia), Josip Simic (Croatia Zagreb)

U21: Stipe Pletikosa, Silvije Cavlina, Silvester Sabolcki, Anthony Seric, Darko Miladin Darko, Dalibor Viskovic, Jurica Vranjes, Smoje Dario, Branko Hucika, Hrvoje Vejic, Hrvoje Skleplic, Ivan Leko, Tomo Sokota, Goran Brajkovic, Zvonimir Deranja, Goran Tomic, Mihael Mikic, Bosko Balaban, Antonio Franja

MUJCIN SENT OFF AS CROATIA STRUGGLE

Croatia 0 MTK Budapest 0

Croatia Zagreb begun the qualifying stage of the UEFA Champions Cup unimpressively with a 0-0 home draw against Hungarian team MTK Budapest.

The home team placed themselves under a severe handicap as early as the 16th minute when one of their key players Edin Mujcin was sent off by the English referee, Keith Pool. Mujcin received a yellow card in the 10th minute for rough play and then six minutes later he was in the opponent's penalty area and attempted to 'milk' a penalty. The referee was unimpressed with his diving performance and promptly pulled out a second yellow card for ungentlemanly conduct thus expelling Mujcin from the game.

Obviously Croatia was under extreme pressure from that point on with the need to score home goals against an opponent whose objective was to hold out for a draw from the first whistle. Although the Hungarian Gabor Halmai was also dismissed in the 66th minute MTK managed to hold out the last 24 minutes and prepare for the home game full of confidence.

Croatia began the match well and as early as the 3rd minute Mujcin received the ball at the end of a counter attack on the edge of the penalty box but his attempted lob over the MTK 'keeper but the ball was wide of the goal.

The MTK defence 'bunkered' itself into a defensive formation early on with Croatia retaining a healthy proportion of the possession and attempting to find a way through the packed defence.

Mujcin's dismissal allowed the visitors a little bit more latitude in their attacking options and they tested Croatia 'keeper, Drazen Ladic for the first time in the 31st minute. A forceful shot found Ladic in the right spot and he averted any danger.

Four minutes later Croatia's Robert Prosinecki found young Mihael Mikic deep in the

opponent's half and he was able to, in turn, provide and excellent pass to Josip Simic but the central striker wasn't accurate enough with his shot which flew over the top of the bar.

In the same minute at the other end MTK's Bela Iles had a golden chance to open the scoring but his free header from ten metres was too high.

In the 40th minute Croatia coach, Osvaldo Ardiles, made the logical move to take off one of his forwards, Mikic, and brought on a midfielder, Zoran Pavlovic, to compensate for the dismissal of Mujcin.

Pavlovic brought some life into the game and his industrious play brought a free kick to Croatia just before half time but Prosinecki's 30 metre pile driver was of no trouble to MTK's best player on the day, 'keeper Gabor Babos.

In the second half Croatia started off well with Simic again prominent.



when he attempted an audacious shot from the left to almost surprise the excellent Babos.

A few minutes later Prosinecki's genius drew three MTK players to him before backheeling a pass into the path of Tomislav Rukavina who was unable to finish off the move.

MTK lost a player in the 66th minute when Halmai committed a foul on Prosinecki once too often and received his second yellow card.

In the 73rd minute Igor Biscan worked his way toward the penalty box but his shot was just over the bar.

Replacement Ardian Kozniku and Biscan, again, had opportunities towards the end of the



Edin Mujcin sent off in the 16th minute

game but to no avail.

Sweeper Juric ventured forward late in the game for a free kick but his attempt was not good enough to trouble the man of the match, MTK 'keeper, Babos.

MTK held on to the end and went home happy in the knowledge that all they need to do to advance to the next round is to win.

Croatian coach Ardiles stated that he was not unhappy with the result under the circumstances and gives his team a chance to beat MTK in Budapest.

"If you had asked me if I would have been happy with a draw before the game I would have said no. But, in light of what happened after twenty minutes we can be satisfied and say that we have a good chance in the return leg," Ardiles said.

"In Budapest it isn't going to be easy, but I've got faith in my players. We had a lot of chances to score but couldn't convert any of them.

"Biscan had a fantastic game, especially in the second half when he performed two jobs, looking after Helder and going forward."

Croatia was best served by youngsters Biscan and Simic as well as the classy Prosinecki.

Croatia: Ladic, Juric, Tomas, Cvitanovic (Kozniku 78), Rukavinam (Sanc) 69, Jurcic, Biscan, Prosinecki, Mujcin, Mikic (Pavlovic 40), Simic.

MTK Budapest: Babos, Loerincz, Feher, Komlosi, Kuttor, Szamosi, Eros, Halmai, Iles, Egreszy (46, Helder), Ilea (Preisinger 62)

YORKE PROVIDES LATE WINNERS

Gouw, and will be out of action for at least a month.

For all of Leeds' possession though, the loss of width due to Kewell moving inside was keenly felt and United still managed to create the clearest openings before the interval.

First Yorke set Andy Cole clear and although the striker went tumbling as Nigel Martyn dived for the ball in the penalty area, referee Neale Barry gave the Leeds keeper the benefit of the

his team's first-half performance but felt that the turning-point came when they finally started to spread the play with 25 minutes left.

United still had to survive Jaap Stam losing possession on a driving run forwards to leave his fellow defenders exposed but Kewell only managed to strike the inside of the post after breaking clear.

The match was evenly poised at that stage but then, almost from nowhere, Neville crossed invitingly from the right flank and Yorke was on hand to rise above the Leeds defence and head powerfully into the far corner with 14 minutes left.

It was the classic United counter-punch and the torrential rain which then followed only dampened the spirits of the visitors even further as they succumbed once again in similar style less than three minutes later.

This time Beckham was the creator, fighting a free-kick into the penalty area and Yorke stole ahead of his marker to plant his header just inside the near post.

All of a sudden, nothing at all was going right for Leeds as van der Gouw saved with his outstretched boot from Bowyer and then denied Duberry in the clos-

ing stages.

Ferguson paid tribute to Leeds' adventurous display, describing them as a "refreshing young team" with a "manager who has done exceptionally well and has adopted an attacking policy which has to be respected".

It was scant consolation though for Leeds boss David O'Leary, who insisted that it was United's ability to take their chances in contrast to his own side's failure that was the main difference between the two sides.

"If you take those goals away, there was hardly anything in it. We've got to learn from that and really I was delighted with them," he added.

Man Utd: Bosnich (Van Der Gouw 21), Neville, Irwin, Berg, Stam, Beckham, Keane, Scholes (Butt 69), Cole, Yorke (Shearingham 81), Giggs.

Goals: Yorke 76, 80.

Leeds: Martyn, Harte (Hiden 75), Radebe, Woodgate, Bridges (Hopkin 19), Kewell (Bakke 83), Bowyer, Huckerby, Mills, Duberry, Batty.

Crowd: 55,187.



Manchester U 2 Leeds 0

The young Leeds side, with Australian wonder kid Harry Kewell at the forefront, threatened to earn a draw against the treble winners of last season only to succumb to Dwight Yorke's late double flourish.

The striker's sharpness, was in contrast to the blunt display of many of his team-mates.

Leeds were certainly not overawed and went for United's jugular in the opening exchanges, with chief tormentor

Harry Kewell striking two long-range efforts just off target, while Bowyer also came close.

Kewell - a "smashing young player", acknowledged Ferguson - continued to prove a thorn in the side of the United defence even after moving inside to partner debutant Darren Huckerby when an ankle knock forced off Michael Bridges after 17 minutes.

United keeper Mark Bosnich similarly limped out of the action early on with a hamstring injury, to be replaced by the impressive Raimond van der

doubt.

Then United had three consecutive chances to score but still failed to do so as Scholes' shot was saved by Martyn, David Beckham's follow-up was blocked and Irwin spooned the re-bound over the bar from just eight yards out.

Beckham was similarly wasteful after Lucas Radebe misjudged the flight of Scholes' long-ball and merely headed it into the England midfielder's path.

Ferguson had understandably not been entirely happy with

ARSENAL HELD SCORELESS

Sunderland 0 Arsenal 0

A record 41,680 Stadium of Light crowd were delighted by the performance of Sunderland as they kept Arsenal scoreless to recover from the opening day mauling at the hands of Chelsea.

But Sunderland owe a huge debt to goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen for a number of fine saves.

The Gunners will be more concerned with the injuries which forced Emmanuel Petit and Dennis Bergkamp during a robust first period.

Sunderland opened the game in a manner manager Peter Reid would remember from his playing days - with bluster and vigour.

It was Arsenal who were producing the most potent attacks and Dennis Bergkamp must have been kicking himself after he mis-kicked a Thierry Henry through-ball in the fifth minute on the edge of the box.

The quaint old phrase 'Get Stuck In' was resounding around the Stadium of Light as the home fans backed their team.

And striker Kevin Phillips' own determination gave him some space in Arsenal area to collect Rae's pass. But the forward fell over himself and the chance was lost.

Sunderland were moving at break-neck speed but the visitors' more considered approach was producing the better results and Sorensen did well to hold a Bergkamp free-kick.

The home team was beginning to come to terms with the pace of the game and a neat three-man passing move down the left culminated with Alex



Manninger doing well to clear the danger from a Michael Gray cross.

The game opened up in the second half with Sunderland matching Arsenal's flair with their own brand of spirit and the Gunners' threat was looking less significant as the half wore on.

Kanu ensured that the crowd remained in their seats until the end with a glancing header which flashed wide of Sorensen's goal in the last minute.

Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Bould (Helmer 54), Butler, Gray, Ball, Summerbee, Rae, Schwarz, Oster (McCann 45), Phillips (Quinn 78).

Arsenal: Manninger, Dixon, Keown, Upson, Silvinho, Parlour, Vieira, Petit (Ljungberg 41), Henry, Bergkamp (Boa Morte 45), Kanu.

Crowd: 41,680.

LIVERPOOL LETHARGY

Liverpool 0 Watford 1

Gerard Houllier's collection of Czechs, Dutchmen, Norwegians, Finns and Scousers gave the Anfield fans their first home glimpse of the Red revolution.

It was more like a Red rag-bag as Liverpool were deservedly eclipsed by Graham Taylor's relegation favourites.

Tommy Mooney scored a the first-half goal which gave former England boss Taylor his first-ever points at Anfield in 22 years as a manager and his first victory since returning to the top flight.

Liverpool put on an inept performance, lacking in steel and style, full of doom and despondency and which earned deserved boos from the Anfield faithful.

Anfield's defensive frailties have cost them dearly in the Nineties - just ask former manager Roy Evans.

And they were on show again, with desperate consequences, as early as the 16th minute.

Watford defender Peter Kennedy clipped in a free-kick which skidded about the Anfield penalty area like a pinball before landing at the feet of Tommy Mooney.

The Watford striker could hardly believe the space he had found in an otherwise crowded penalty box and he gratefully side-footed the ball beyond Dutch goalkeeper Sander Westerveld, before being submerged in a euphoric sea of yellow jerseys.

Liverpool should have hauled themselves level before half-time with Steven Gerrard, Redknapp and Patrik Berger, in particular, all squandering gilt-edged opportunities.

In the 58th minute Houllier threw on David Thompson to replace Gerrard in a bid to prick the lethargy which appeared to have descended over Anfield.

Robbie Fowler immediately came close twice with a header and then a shot which struck Paul Robinson which the Watford defender knew little about.

But the more Liverpool pushed forward the more vulnerable they looked at the back and Watford should have increased their lead in the 81st minute.

First, Mooney shot against the legs of goalkeeper Westerveld on the edge of the area and then from the rebound Micah Hyde's chip was headed off the line by Liverpool substitute Rigobert Song.

Watford had further opportunities to increase Liverpool's embarrassment, with Mooney and Noel-Williams again going close.

"There's only one Graham Taylor," the Watford fans chanted at the end. And the former England manager responded with a smile and a wave which lit up Anfield.

Houllier, meanwhile, trudged down the tunnel with hunched shoulders. The revolution has a long, long way to go yet.

Liverpool: Westerveld, Matteo, Hyypia, Carragher, Heggern (Song 81), Berger, Redknapp, Gerrard (Thompson 57), Smicer (Riedle 62), Fowler, Camara.

Watford: Day, Lyttle, Kennedy, Palmer, Page, Robinson, Ngongue (Foley 69), Hyde, Mooney, Johnson (Easton 52), Williams.

Goals: Mooney 14.

Crowd: 44,174.

OWN GOAL EARNS CHELSEA POINT

BRADFORD'S LATE EQUALISER

Bradford 1 Sheffield Wed 1

Leicester 2 Chelsea 2

Leicester defender Frank Sinclair scored an injury-time own goal for the second successive Saturday to earn Chelsea a dramatic share of the spoils from the Premiership clash at Filbert Street.

Sinclair headed past his own keeper to earn Arsenal a last gasp winner against Martin O'Neill's side on the opening day of the new Premiership season.

Leicester thought they had secured victory when former Chelsea midfielder Muzzy Izzet converted an 89th minute penalty after Emile Heskey had been fouled by Albert Ferrer following a cross from Andrew Impey.

But then came Sinclair's moment of despair after Gustavo Poyet had created the danger by heading a Bjarne Goldbaek cross back across goal.

Leicester received a boost with Heskey ending a nine month sequence without a goal as he made a quickfire return to action after his horrifying looking neck injury at Highbury last weekend.

But inevitably Chelsea produced most of the flair and guile with their multi million pound foreign legion and in the second half the home side were subjected to a fierce onslaught.

Leicester began confidently and Heskey gave them a dream start with his tenth minute strike - although there was an element of good fortune about the build-up to the goal.

Muzzy Izzet sent in an optimistic effort from 30 yards out but the ball struck Heskey and then dropped invitingly into his path.

Heskey needed no second invitation and his low effort from 15 yards out flew past the despairing dive of Chelsea 'keeper Ed De Goey.

Chelsea needed only three minutes to get back on level terms in the second half.

Gianfranco Zola found Albert Ferrer in space on the right flank and, despite being one of the shortest players on the pitch, it was Wise who was on hand to head home at the far post.

De Goey earned his wages when he tipped over a header from Leicester substitute Ian Marshall.

He even managed to get his hand to the Izzet penalty but could not prevent it from entering the corner of the net before Sinclair unwittingly rescued a point for the visitors.

Chelsea will probably view proceedings as two points lost rather than one gained in the final analysis despite the dramatic finale but they still extended their unbeaten sequence in the Premiership away from Stamford Bridge to seven months.



Le Saux ... injured early in the game

Leicester: Flowers, Sinclair, Taggart (Gilchrist 86), Izzet, Lennon, Heskey, Guppy, Savage, Elliott, Impey, Cottee (Marshall 72).

Goals: Heskey 10, Izzet 90 pen.

Chelsea: De Goey, Petrescu, Babayaro, Hogg, Leboeuf, Poyet, Wise, Le Saux (Goldbaek 23), Ferrer, Flo, Zola (Sutton 69).

Goals: Wise 48, Sinclair 90 og.

Crowd: 21,068

Bradford looked on course for defeat in front of a sell-out Valley Parade crowd after the unfortunate John Dreyer had put through his own goal six minutes from the break.

Then in one last-ditch raid on the Wednesday goal, Niclas Alexandersson brought down City's 33-year-old skipper, with referee Dermot Gallagher then pointing to the spot.

With the weight of expectation on his shoulders, the experienced Peter Beagrie shouldered the responsibility with coolness and composure to shoot beyond the outstretched grasp of the recalled Kevin Pressman.

The three clearest chances in the opening half-hour were either started or finished by Benito Carbone, with the first after two minutes as a surprise 25-yard left-foot drive nearly caught Walsh unawares.

He showed how useful he is with either foot as another powerful drive, this time with his right, forced Walsh into an agile tip over the bar in the 29th.

He also provided Sweden international winger Alexandersson a couple of chances. He picked out Alexandersson at the far post with a left-wing cross but placement instead of power was the chosen finish, allowing Walsh to smother the shot.

The result leaves Bradford unbeaten after two games, while the Owls are still searching for their first win.

Bradford: Walsh, Halle, Wetherall, Dreyer, Jacobs, Lawrence (Saunders 62), Redfearn, Whalley, Beagrie, Windass, Mills.

Goals: Beagrie 89 pen.

Sheff Wed: Pressman, Atherton, Thome, Walker, Newsome, Hinchcliffe (Briscoe 48), Jonk (Booth 78), Rudi, Alexandersson, Carbone, De Bilde (Donnelly 78).

Goals: Dreyer 39 og.

Crowd: 18,276

COVENTRY GET POINT

Wimbledon 1 Coventry 1

Coventry finally got their season off the ground after a moment of madness from Tore Pedersen handed them a point at Selhurst Park.

When Carl Cort opened the scoring for Wimbledon on 67 minutes the three points looked inevitable.

Coventry were failing to respond to the Dons' challenge, and Egil Olsen seemed as though he was about to get his second win of the season.

But then, in the final minute of injury time, Pedersen ludicrously held back John Aloisi in the penalty area and Gary McAllister converted the spot-kick.

The visitors were determined to earn a reward and Aloisi should have put Coventry in the driving seat on 27 minutes when Noel Whelan's cross found him in space on the six-yard box - but he shot over the bar.

After the opening goal the orders came from the bench that they were to hang on to the lead but Pedersen took the message too literally.

Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Roberts, Blackwell, Thatcher, Cort, Earle (Euell 59), Hartson, Gayle (Ardley 79), Pedersen, Andersen.

Goals: Cort 67.

Coventry: Hedman, Burrows, Williams, Shaw, Whelan, Aloisi, McAllister, Hadji (Froggatt 76), Telfer, Breen, Chipps.

Goals: McAllister 90 pen.

Crowd: 10,635

NO GASCOIGNE BUT 'BORO WIN

Derby 1 Middlesbrough 3

Middlesbrough's victory over Wimbledon midweek was followed by a more comfortable triumph at Pride Park even though Paul Gascoigne watched from the sidelines.

Brian Deane and Christian Ziege, with a superb free-kick, put Boro in charge in the opening 20 minutes before Deon Burton gave Derby some hope shortly before half-time.

But they were unable to sustain their mini-recovery, and Hamilton Ricard sealed the three points for the visitors when he firstly won and then scored a penalty on 66 minutes.

With Paul Ince giving a powerful performance in midfield and Deane and Ricard an ever-present danger up front, Boro were far too good for the Rams, who lost 2-1 at home to Arsenal midweek.

Gascoigne, 32, has had a traumatic week. He was pictured leaving a film premiere in the early hours of Wednesday morning, although Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson later denied allegations he had gone on a "drinking binge".

Then yesterday his best friend Jimmy 'Five Bellies' Gardner was jailed for six months for possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Robson revealed Gascoigne had treatment on a tight hamstring on Wednesday morning, but there was no suggestion he would not line up for the

game against Derby.

The official Boro line was that a sciatic problem forced the midfielder to sit out the game - but his side hardly missed him.

Derby rely so heavily on Francesco Baiano and Stefano Eranio that the Rams struggle for inspiration going forward when that pair do not fire.

The Italian duo were both way below their best today, with Baiano replaced at half-time and Eranio withdrawn with 20 minutes left.

Middlesbrough were hardly brilliant but in truth they did not need to be, such was the sub-standard nature of Derby's display.

Deane started the ball rolling on nine minutes, firing home from six yards after Keith O'Neill's corner had found its way through to him via Dean Gordon and Ricard.

The Rams were soon 2-0 down, Jacob Laursen penalised for pulling Deane's shirt and Ziege curling home a splendid free-kick from 28 yards.

Derby's fans were getting on their players' backs after just half-an-hour but they turned their jeers to cheers on 41 minutes when Burton struck.

Baiano's shot was blocked by Steve Vickers, but Burton was on hand to rifle a fierce shot beyond Mark Schwarzer and into the roof of the net.

Rory Delap had a shot deflected wide as the Rams looked for an equaliser. But they were killed off soon afterwards when Ricard, who struck twice at Wimbledon,



Stefan Eranio in a tussle with an opponent

scored again.

Referee Steve Bennett gave a penalty when the Colombian was pulled over by Horacio Carbonari in the area and from the spot-kick he sent Poom the wrong way.

Derby: Poom, Prior, Laursen, Carbonari, Eranio (Bohinen 71), Powell, Johnson, Delap, Baiano (Borbokis 46), Beck (Schnoor 46), Burton.

Goals: Burton 41.

Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Ziege, Vickers, Festa, Gordon (Townsend 59), Stamp, Ince, Mustoe, O'Neill, Deane, Ricard (Armstrong 83).

Goals: Deane 9, Ziege 20, Ricard 66 pen.

Crowd: 24,045

IVERSEN'S LATE WINNER FOR SPURS



David Ginola

Everton 2 Tottenham 3

Steffen Iversen struck with a dramatic Tottenham winner in the 85th minute after his side had twice trailed to a pair of penalties by David Unsworth.

Both Everton spot kicks were given for trips on Everton's teenaged striker Francis Jeffers by goalkeeper Ian Walker.

Stand-in skipper Tim Sherwood pulled Spurs back into the game with an unchallenged 34th-minute header from a corner 10 minutes after Jeffers had gone sprawling in the box for the first spot kick.

Jeffers and Walker had chased a loose ball that was heading for the dead-ball line having deflected off the young-

ster's backside from Nick Bamby's shot.

But despite Spurs constant pressure it looked like Jeffers' decision to withdraw a transfer request in midweek and open the way for his first start of the season, would pay off big time when 14 minutes from time he latched onto Kevin Campbell's flick and fell over Walker's legs as he attempted to take the ball round him.

Unsworth, captaining the side with Don Hutchison left on the bench until those frenzied last few minutes, again showed cold-eyed accuracy with the penalty and Spurs looked stunned.

But Oyvind Leonhardsen pulled them level again with nine minutes left after Everton's excellent keeper Paul Gerrard made his only mistake of the match, failing to hang on to David Ginola's whipped-in cross and only palming it out to the former Liverpool midfielder's feet.

And Iversen applied the decisive touch four minutes later when the dangerous Steve Carr raced clear on the right to provide the cross.

A packed White Hart Lane crowd - no problems with delayed season-tickets this time apparently - could not deny manager George Graham's pledge to provide exciting football.

And yet, apart from the goals, the penalty controversies and the grandstand finish it was largely undistinguished fare for long periods.

Gerrard kept Everton in the game with a string of breathtaking saves, deny-

ing Darren Anderton after a penetrating solo run and Ginola's audacious attempt to squeeze a freekick inside his near post from somewhere near the corner flag.

Kevin Campbell, brought up as a star striker by Graham at Arsenal, lobbed onto the Tottenham bar with the score-sheet still blank and Everton were ruggedly efficient at the back.

But they would have been lucky to put their first win of the season on the board.

Spurs, for the third consecutive game this season, had to come from behind but they certainly showed the spirit and guts which taskmaster Graham demands.

Leonhardsen typified their efforts with a non-stop display and Anderton pressed his claims for a new contract to make him highest paid player at the club with a lung-bursting performance, full of guile and drive even though he missed a good chance from Leonhardsen's pass early in the second half.

Spurs turned their fury at the first penalty award - Les Ferdinand had to be held back by Everton players as he went to protest to referee Paul Alcock - into positive pressure.

And they were level within 10 minutes when, after Gerrard had made his latest brilliant save to push away Iversen's powerful header at full stretch, poor Everton marking left Sherwood unmarked to head home the resultant corner by Anderton. It was Sherwood's second in six days but Iversen was later

to emulate him.

Gerrard made another vital stop from Anderton's drilled freekick just before and knocked away Ferdinand's header early in the second half when the striker, who had scored in Tottenham's two previous meetings with the Merseysiders, really should have scored having escaped all challengers to connect with Sherwood's perfect delivery from the right.

Carr's running down the right helped keep Everton under solid pressure and he went for goal himself in the 67th minute only for Gerrard, yet again, to apply the vital touch which turned the full back's rising, angled drive over the bar.

But Spurs were so much in command that they dropped their guard momentarily and when Jeffers went through on Campbell's flick and was brought down again.

Tottenham: Walker, Carr, Perry, Scales, Taricco, Anderton (Freund 85), Sherwood, Leonhardsen, Ginola, Iversen, Ferdinand.

Goals: Sherwood 34, Leonhardsen 82, Iversen 86.

Everton: Gerrard, Weir, Gough, Unsworth, Dunne, Ward (Cleland 72), Gemmill (Hutchison 72), Collins, Bamby, Campbell, Jeffers (Cadamarteri 80).

Goals: Unsworth 24 pen, 77 pen.

Crowd: 34,539

NEWCASTLE'S WORST START EVER ... GULLIT GOES?

Southampton 4 Newcastle 2

Newcastle manager Ruud Gullit refused to rule out the possibility of resigning after the club's worst start to a season in 40 years.

The Magpies were humiliated 4-2 at Southampton and are rock bottom of the Premiership with no points from three games.

Already Gullit is being quoted at 2-5 by William Hill to leave the club before the end of the season and the team are 5-1 to be relegated.

Gullit, asked if he would consider resigning, replied: "You never know."

Pressed if that meant yes or no he said: "That's true."

The Magpies boss had stood scratching his dreadlocks in despair at The Dell as his expensive collection of talent surrendered a first-half lead to the rampant Saints.

When asked if he would be manager next week against Wimbledon at St James' Park, he said: "I will have to think about it."

"I will think about what I saw today and what I've seen for the last few weeks."

Two goals from Hassan Kachloul and one each for Marian Pahars and Mark Hughes condemned the Geordies to their third defeat of

the new season after Alan Shearer had fired them in front from the penalty spot.

Gary Speed claimed a late consolation but the Saints could have had another from recent signing Trond Soltvedt, who went close.

The Newcastle collapse had been completely unexpected at half-time when Shearer's strike separated two teams who were clearly struggling to find top gear in a south coast downpour.

But Dave Jones reshuffled his Saints with a double substitution at the interval, bringing on Stuart Ripley and new-boy Soltvedt who helped swing the game.

Newcastle, without a win at the Dell since 1972, rarely threatened Paul Jones in the Saints goal until the 22nd minute penalty.

The goalmouth action, in a scrappy opening, had occurred in the visitors' area, where John Karelse was making his Newcastle debut in goal.

Homegrown defender Aaron Hughes coolly intercepted a Southampton break when he pounced to steal a Pahars pass intended for Egil Ostenstad, blocked Matthew Oakley with a crucial tackle and twice denied namesake Mark Hughes in front of goal.

But the 22nd-minute penalty left Southampton rag-

ing at ref David Elleray.

Nolberto Solano chested a ball into the path of an onrushing Kieron Dyer, whose first touch took him past Claus Lundekvam who blocked his path and sent the little midfielder spinning to the ground.

Elleray pointed to the spot and Shearer stepped up to smash the Magpies into the lead against his first club.

The goal sparked Newcastle into life. Suddenly they offered a more potent attacking threat.

Dyer, a £6million summer signing from Ipswich, had a shot deflected wide and then showed a glimpse of his sublime skill inside the penalty area.

He lifted a bouncing ball over the head of Kachloul and then lashed a fierce volley inched wide of the far post from an acute angle.

Saints offered little in reply in the first half. Mark Hughes went close twice but Jones' half-time changes inspired his team.

He threw Ripley and £300,000 capture from Coventry Soltvedt into action in place of a subdued Matt Le Tissier and Oakley and the duo had an immediate impact.

Ripley, who supplied the ammunition for Shearer in their successful days together at Blackburn, was a constant threat down the right and his

superb wing play helped the Saints level in the 59th minute.

He collected a flick from Egil Ostenstad, skipped past Didier Domi and crossed low for Kachloul to convert a simple chance at the far post.

Ripley orchestrated the second, seven minutes later, with a raking pass from the right into the path of pacy striker Pahars who crashed Southampton ahead from eight yards.

Newcastle could do little right and when Soltvedt caused problems by competing for a high ball from Scott Hiley it was no surprise to see it drop perfectly for Kachloul to drive home his second.

Mark Hughes completed the misery for his former manager Gullit. He swooped to fire a trademark volley into the top corner after good work by Soltvedt 11 minutes from time.

Speed's goal late in the day, from a Solano cross, did little to lift the gloom for Gullit and his men.



Southampton: Hiley, Benail, Oakley (Ripley 46), Richards, Lundekvam, Le Tissier (Soltvedt 46), Hughes, Mostenstad, Pahars, Kachloul (Bridge 71).

Goals: Kachloul 59, 69, Pahars 67, Hughes 79.

Newcastle: Karelse, Barton, Domi, Shearer, Ketsbaia, Speed, Goma, Hughes, Solano, Serrant (Maric 13, Robinson 71), Dyer.

Goals: Shearer 23, Speed 85.

Crowd: 15,030

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Scottish Premier League

FIRST SETBACK FOR BARNES

Dundee United 2 Celtic 1

John Barnes suffered his first defeat as Celtic head coach as Dundee United demonstrated there is life outside the Old Firm in Scottish football.

At Tannadice, however, goals from Craig Easton after 12 minutes and Billy Dodds three minutes before the break left Celtic urgently needing to call on their powers of recovery.

The visitors dominated the second 45 minutes but their only response was record signing Eyal Berkovic's 82nd-minute volley and a subsequent late flurry failed to produce a point.

The result means United with two home wins this term have now equalled their entire tally of Tannadice league victories last season as Paul Sturrock finally makes an impact.

Celtic had claimed early goals in their three previous matches, but were denied by the post here after eight minutes when Johan Mjallby met Lubomir Moravcik's corner.

Moravcik's firmly struck free-kick then picked out Henrik Larsson but from point blank range the Swede headed wide of the mark as eyes turned to the back of the net.

After 12 minutes United took the lead with the first goal scored against Barnes' Celtic when Dodds' superb lay-off set up Easton for a curling strike beyond the reach of Gould.

Larsson at once headed over a Berkovic free-kick, but Celtic were shaken and finding themselves having to respond

to adversity for the first time under Barnes' charge.

United could and should have made it 2-0 after just 20 minutes when a clean through Ferraz shot against the legs of Gould and James Paterson's follow-up was well-blocked by the keeper.

Celtic came close to levelling after 38 minutes when a Vidar Riseth pass released Mark Viduka but his angled drive was saved at the striker's feet by Alan Combe in the United goal.

Remarkably three minutes before the interval United were two ahead when a Paterson pass wrongfooted the Celtic back-line and Dodds had all the time required to lob Gould and score.

Celtic's long-awaited first test had arrived and the question was if they could meet it against a defence marshalled by Jason De Vos and Siggi Jonsson which was standing firm.

With eight minutes remaining, Celtic finally pulled a goal back through Berkovic's memorable volley.

Dundee Utd: Combe, Pascual, Hannah, De Vos, Jonsson, Easton, Skoldmark, Ferraz, Dodds, Paterson (Davidson 90), Partridge.

Goals: Easton 12, Dodds 42.

Celtic: Gould, Riseth, Mjallby, Tebily, Mahe, Lambert, Wieghorst (Petrov 67), Moravcik, Berkovic, Larsson, Viduka.

Goals: Berkovic 82.

Crowd: 12,375

MOLS IN FOUR GOAL BURST

Rangers 4 Motherwell 1

Four-goal Michael Mols fired Rangers back to the top of the Scottish Premier League as a rampant Ibrox side swept past Motherwell.

Dundee United's tenure at the top of the table was to last three hours as the Dutchman became only the second-ever player to net four goals in an SPL match.

The first, Celtic's Henrik Larsson, grabbed his four goals last season.

Neil McCann caused the visitors problems and in the 11th minute, only a last-ditch tackle from Rob Matthaei denied him a half chance. Then, from Vidmar's corner, Rod Wallace got himself in the way of Lorenzo Amoroso's netbound header.

Andy Goram came to Motherwell's rescue with two fine saves in a minute. Giovanni Van Bronckhorst disposed Matthaei on the left before sending Wallace through on the 'keeper. Goram stopped the little striker's effort. Seconds later, the ex-Ibrox favourite denied McCann.

Michael Mols twice sent efforts wide as he began to get into the game before Vidmar capitalised on hesitancy from Matthaei before flashing a shot wide. Wallace came within an ace of opening the scoring just before the half hour, but although he connected well with Claudio Reyna's cross, his diving header was just off target.

Mols eventually broke the deadlock three minutes from the interval, volleying McCann's cross home from eight yards. Two minutes later, his new partnership produced number two, when Mols gratefully accepted another cross from McCann to fire home.

Reyna's long ball into the box broke off a defender and fell kindly for the Dutchman on the penalty spot. Mols' earlier composure had deserted him, however, and he blazed the shot



Michael Mols ... four goal hero

over.

The hat-trick arrived five minutes later. Mols ran on to a superb through-ball from Reyna and placed it through the legs of Goram.

It was a stroll now and Motherwell had no answer to the waves of Rangers attacks. Jorg Albertz, on for Sergio Porrini, tested Goram's resolve with a couple of long range rockets before Mols capped a sparkling performance with his fourth goal. Van Bronckhorst's corner somehow found its way across to the Dutchman and his lazily struck effort from the edge of the box looped in.

Rangers: Niemi, Porrini(Adamczuk 73), Moore, Amoroso, Vidmar, Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Mols, Wallace, Reyna(Albertz 73), McCann(Johansson 84)

Goals: Mols 42, 45, 69, 81

Motherwell: oram, Doesburg, McMillan, Thomas, Brannan, Teale, Matthaei(Nevin 46), Valakari, Nicholas(Townsend 64), Spencer, McCulloch

Goals: McCulloch 90

Crowd: 45,264

ALL SQUARE IN DERBY

Hibernian 1 Hearts 1

Gary McSwegan stole the show from Russel Latapy as his late goal gave Hearts a share of the points in the Edinburgh derby clash at Easter Road.

Latapy celebrated his one-year contract extension with a 42nd minute penalty that looked to have given Alex McLeish victory in his first Edinburgh derby.

But Hearts were rewarded for a spirited second half display as McSwegan's back header somehow found the net.

Hibs should have been in front before their penalty as Dirk Lehmann squandered a great chance.

Lehmann lashed a shot just past Gilles Rousset's post when put in by Latapy on the edge of the area.

In the 14th minute Hearts produced their first real threat on the Hibs goal but Stephane Adam lashed just wide inside the box from Collin Cameron's pass.

Hibs squandered another chance in the 27th minute as Latapy was given a great opportunity after a superb one-two with Lehmann. However the Trinidadian shot straight at Rousset and a chance went begging.

In the 30th minute Fabrice Henry shot high over the crossbar after link up play with the busy Latapy. In the 40th minute Hearts came close to taking the lead as Fogel's snapshot was saved by Gottskalksson and Adam was inches from putting in the rebound.

However, Hibs got their just reward when Latapy fired home from the spot after Cameron was adjudged to have fouled Lehmann.

After the restart Hearts keeper Rousset was nearly embarrassed as he

almost got caught out from the bounce of Henry's long-range effort.

In the 56th minute the referee waved away protests from Hearts as Steve Fulton went down in the area as the pressure was beginning to affect the Hibernian defence.

However, in the 57th minute Henry was inches away from giving his side a two-goal advantage but his shot from the edge of the area flashed just past the post.

Moments later the same player was again involved but this time saw his shot fly over after good work from Latapy on the right.

Hearts thought they had grabbed the equaliser in the 76th minute but Gottskalksson made an amazing fingertip save from Pressley's point blank backwards header.

In the 78th minute the Finnish keeper made an equally brilliant stop to deny Fogel. But the pressure paid and Hearts got their just rewards in the 81st minute when McSwegan's backward header from Fogel's flick-on squeezed between Gottskalksson and his left-hand post.

With six minutes left Darren Jackson had the chance to clinch the point for Jim Jefferies side but he blazed just wide.

Hibernian: Gottskalksson, Renwick, Lovering, Sauzee (Hartley 45), Dennis, Latapy, McGinlay, Henry (Miller 83), Jack, Lehmann (Paatelainen 76), Skinner.

Goals: Latapy 42 pen

Hearts: Rousset, Pressley, James, Ritchie, McSwegan, Fulton, Adam (Carricomo 67), Cameron, Jackson, Fogel, Severin.

Goals: McSwegan 79.

Crowd: 16,976

WOE FOR ABERDEEN CONTINUES

Aberdeen 0 Dundee 2

Dundee, looking for only their second win at Pittodrie in 22 years, brushed aside a poor Aberdeen team thanks to ex-Don Willie Falconer. The former Pittodrie favourite netted both goals from free headers and underlined the urgency for Aberdeen to invest in some quality defenders.

New Dons boss Ebbe Skovdahl will again be disappointed at how easily his side were defeated and the result now leaves Aberdeen in rock bottom in the Scottish Premier League without a point to their name, and also without a goal.

Aberdeen's regular striker Robbie Winters was even dropped for the visit of Dundee with Skovdahl trying out the new striking partnership of Darren Mackie and Derek Young.

Although the home side did have more shots on target, they found Dons keeper Robbie Douglas in outstanding form as he kept out effort after effort and even coming out on top in a one-on-one with substitute Winters in the last minute.

Throughout the game Douglas never put a foot wrong, touching over a net-bound header by Winters and even

putting a low Eoin Jess shot over the bar with his foot.

Dundee only had two efforts on target during the game, both coming from the head of Falconer and both resulting in the goals which gave the Dens Park men their first victory of the season.

The first goal came in 29 minutes when Falconer laid the ball wide to another ex-Don, Hugh Robertson, before running into space to head home his team mate's returned cross.

Ten minutes later Dundee completed the scoring when Falconer nodded home Eddie Annand's corner after Dons keeper David Preece had only just touched over a wayward clearance by defender Derek White.

Aberdeen: Preece, Smith, Whyte, Pepper, Anderson, Young (Winters 63), Hart (Wyness 63), Dow,Kiriakov (Gillies 45), Jess, Mackie

Dundee: Douglas, Smith, Maddison, Miller, Tweed, Boyack, Rae, Yates (Bayne 72), Robertson (McSkimming 72), Annand, Falconer.

Goals: Falconer 29, 39

Crowd: 8,174

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